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JANUARY 2015

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PHOTOGRAPH: JENNIFER ZARINS

Peninsula Villa on Laucala Island, Fiji in the South Pacific

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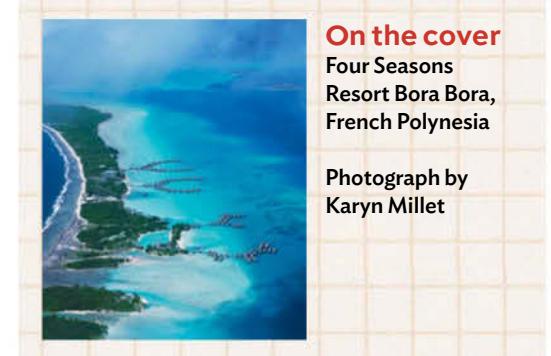
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Four Seasons  
Resort Bora Bora,  
French Polynesia

Photograph by  
Karyn Millet



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# CHANEL



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# EDITOR'S LETTER



**T**HEN HE SAID, 'YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT, anything you say can and will be used against you...' I am angry. I am really angry. 'Barry,' I said, since he'd introduced himself earlier, hoiking up his policeman's hat so I could see his eyes, 'I do find it slightly ironic that in the same month that my husband's car has been stolen and that my moped has been found smashed and smouldering on Hampstead Heath, it is in fact me you are arresting on the school run for some unknown crime I committed in 2011.' 'What crime do you think you committed in 2011?' asks Barry, undeterred, 'in order for your licence to have been rescinded and for you to have been driving illegally ever since?' 'Barry, Barry, Barry,' I say, taking the biggest breath I can muster, 'I have absolutely no idea what I did in 2011. I have absolutely no idea what I did yesterday.' 'The suspect has no idea what she did yesterday,' writes Barry in his notepad. Jeez. Barry.

I also have rosacea. I don't know how you say this word. (I don't know how you say insouciant either, which is a shame, because I'd really like to use it a lot.) The rosacea makes me look like I've taken an iron to my face and my cheeks. Tiny little pieces of me are falling off in meetings.

It reminds me of the time my dad arranged for me to have engagement photos taken by an old friend of his, a buddy from his magazine days. I hate engagement photos. Ooh, here's my sensational ring on my sensational hand which is draped round my sensational fiancé's neck like a snake.

Anyway, I thought it would be nice to look pretty on the day. It's the early noughties and there's this thing called 'lunchtime surgery', so I think I'll have 'lunchtime surgery' since it will all just take place *within* lunchtime, so I go and get lasered – as it turns out – and walk back to the dotcom start-up I'm working on. As the afternoon wears on, my skin starts to feel like a shrinky-dink when you put it in the oven. At one point, the girl sitting opposite gasps and just says, 'YOUR FACE.' I go to the loo and look in the mirror. I am burnt, much like my moped is right now, to a blackened crisp. The next day we have to have our photos taken, as it's all arranged and can't be moved. The engagement photograph of my husband by Patrick Lichfield is really nice. It's just that I'm not in it.

My dad died. I can't stop saying it. I don't know why. Dead dad. Dead dad. I have to stop myself from saying it to people I don't even know. And I'm supposed to be going to New York. My stepsister had organised it for me and my nieces for Halloween weekend before anything had happened. Now I'm not sure it's the right time for it. But then, maybe that makes it the right time. The morning I'm leaving is chaos. The children are upset I'm going. I can't get my head round packing. And now my stepsister is here in the taxi for the airport. On the drive I close my eyes and push my head against the seat, hard, in front of me.

We get to the check-in counter. 'Where are you flying to today, ladies?' the woman asks. 'New York,' Bella says. We slide through security. We get to the Virgin Upper Class Lounge. I have never been here before. There is a lot going on. We have back massages and Bloody Marys and pile our plates with food. 'Quinoa!' I say, pointing to my overloaded plate – and I don't even like quinoa. Chloe comes out of the spa. 'The best facial I ever had!' she says, wide-eyed. Poppy arrives. She is carrying the pink and purple head of a unicorn. 'QUINOA!' I say again, eyes wide, pointing at the plate, beads of the stuff coming out the corner of my mouth.

When we leave, there is this little stand that has different kinds of faces on it for you to press, to express your feedback.

Happy face, I press, happy face, happy face, happy face.

Welcome to the new issue of *Condé Nast Traveller*.

Melinda Stevens  
Editor

 @MelindaStevens3  MelindaLP

## WINNER NEW EDITOR OF THE YEAR

Truth in Travel is this magazine's promise to the reader to be an essential source of honest, first-hand opinion and must-have information. You can trust *Condé Nast Traveller* to give you the unbiased inside track, with integrity and attitude.

All information and travel details are correct at the time of going to press and may no longer be so on the date of publication. Unless otherwise stated, hotel prices are low-season rates and restaurant prices are for a three-course meal for two without drinks.



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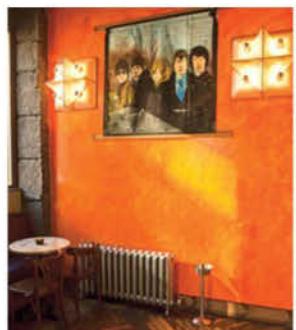
Inspired by this month's feature on Bloomville, we asked our contributors for their top out-of-the-city escape...



**Alice Gao** *Photographer, Bloomville (p86)*

'I rarely travel to the country but when I do **Lummi Island** off the coast of Washington State is a favourite. It's about a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Seattle. I'm always enamoured by any place that allows me to see the Milky Way. All you hear at night are waves crashing – and the morning mist is a sight for sore eyes.'

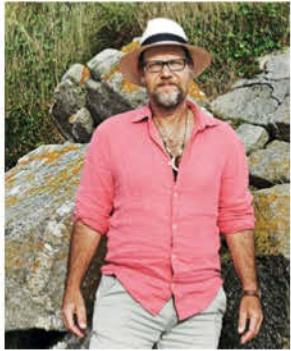
*Alice began her photography career as a blogger*



**Steve King** *Writer, Glasgow (p126)*

'South of Nairobi is a sharp bend known as **Corner Baridi**. Here the road takes a breathtaking plunge into the Great Rift Valley, which extends beyond the horizon to the place where, 3.6 million years ago, our human ancestors began their journey out of Africa.'

*Steve, our Acting Features Editor, lives in Glasgow and London*



**Roberto Frankenberg** *Photographer, South Pacific (p72)*

'I love **Ile de Batz**, a small island off Roscoff in Brittany, because when I'm here I feel like the rest of the world doesn't exist. It's very unspoilt; the people live off farming and fishing. I've been visiting for 20 years and feel perfectly at home.' *Roberto's exhibition 'Traces {I}' is currently showing at La Maison de la Culture Yiddish in Paris*



**Glen Luchford** *Photographer, Room with a view (p188)*

'The small tuna-fishing island of **Favignana**, west of Palermo in Sicily, has a staggering history as it's essentially the gateway to Europe. It was invaded by most of the prominent empires, from the Vikings to the Romans. It's a funny, eccentric, very old-fashioned gem.' *British-born, Brooklyn-based Glen has worked for i-D and Vogue and been exhibited at the ICA and the V&A*



**Jessica Diamond** *Writer, Woodland jewellery (p64)*

'I've been going to **Batcombe** in Somerset since I was a child – after a long summer there, my sister and I were practically feral. Now Hauser & Wirth has opened nearby I'm delighted there's a great local restaurant; semi-horrified that my West Country corner will be over-run by visitors.'

*Jessica is Condé Nast Traveller's Watch and Jewellery Editor*



**Emma Forrest** *Writer, Room with a view (p188)*

'Living in Los Angeles, I love **Pasadena**, especially the Norton Simon Museum. It has a sculpture garden so calming it even soothes a teething toddler.' *Emma was first published when she was 16 and is the author of five books. She is currently finishing her next novel, 'Hollywood Forever', which she describes as 'Jane Austen meets David Lynch'*

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# WORD OF MOUTH

What's hot in Uruguay Western Cape Paris Manila Chengdu Greece

EDITED BY FIONA KERR



## BRING IT ON

Savvy entrepreneurs and chefs are gearing up for the season on Uruguay's riviera

A billionaire's playground it may now be, but José Ignacio's power lies precisely in the preservation of its original barefoot, bohemian beauty. It was Argentine chef Francis Mallmann's restaurant Los Negros that first attracted the models and moguls who migrate here for a few weeks after Christmas every year. Mallmann has now flown inland to Garzón, leaving hotelier Alex Vik to lead the charge, creating incredible, art-filled hotels for the increasingly glossy crowd. He's just opened his third, **Bahia Vik**, scattered over the dunes of Playa Mansa. The 37 rooms include 11 sleek bungalows crafted by architect Marcelo Daglio in copper-titanium and adobe. Then there are the chefs – including Fernando Trocca, normally found behind the grill at Sucre in Buenos Aires – who settle for the season to open pop-ups such as **Santa Teresita** and invite pals from Michelin-starred restaurants for alfresco cook-offs (don't miss this year's **10 Manos**, where five big names whip up an extraordinary feast). Finally, further along the coast, art dealer Thomas Gibson has created **Neptuno**, pictured, an 18-acre rockstar hideaway on the Laguna del Sauce, 20 minutes' drive from Punta del Este; it's available to rent for the first time through Plan South America. LAUREN HOLMES



# A new food philosophy

Get ready to smash some plates – Greece is the word on London’s restaurant scene

Forget dirty burgers and lobster rolls. London’s latest craze is Greek comfort food. At Opso fish burgers come in squid-ink buns with tomato jam. The Greek Larder focuses on more authentic flavours such as *bougatsa* (custard cream in flaky filo pastry) and stuffed vine leaves with smoked eel. Like its predecessors Ergon and The Life Goddess, The Greek Larder is big on sharing plates and doubles as a deli. And at Mazi even *souvlaki* gets a modern makeover with thin pork-belly strips wrapped in rice paper. Next up: Milos, which reinvented Greek cuisine in Montreal, New York and Miami. It opens in St James’s next summer. Two of the city’s trendiest food markets, Broadway Market and Maltby Street, have Greek outposts too: Isle of Olive stocks hand-picked herbs by Daphnis and Chloe, and at Maltby & Greek award-winning wines are paired with delectable mezze. Back in Athens, the national food stuffs are being celebrated too; a team of twenty-somethings recently launched the first Museum of Greek Gastronomy, with a secret-garden restaurant and a shop selling rose-petal jam and raki brewed by monks. RACHEL HOWARD  
Clockwise from top left: fish burgers at Opso; the garden at Mazi; *souvlaki* at the restaurant; Maltby Street Market

## THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL

A rising interior-design star isn't afraid to mix things up at a cocktail-focused Paris hotel

'I'm uneasy with minimalism,' says Dorothée Meilichzon, admitting she combines patterns 'almost to excess'. At 32, the French designer has worked on Experimental Cocktail Clubs in Paris, London, New York and Ibiza and her first hotel, the Paradis, which opened in 2013. Wallpapers (at Hôtel Paradis there are 25 different designs), houndstooth fabrics, graphic prints, serif typefaces: she mixes it all with her own curvy sofas, industrial lighting and 1950s furniture. Now she's working on three new Paris hotels. The Experimental's Grand Pigalle Hôtel opens this month with a deliberately dated charm and a cocktail zone in each bedroom. Hôtel Panache follows in the spring, where she plays on the wedge-shaped building with a triangle motif in the carpets and mirrors. And her largest yet is the 49-room Hôtel Bachaumont, due this summer, with a more classical look. 'It is about creating settings where you feel good, not to shock.' NATASHA EDWARDS

**INSIDER PARIS**

### DOROTHEE'S TOP SPOTS FOR STYLE

**Derrière restaurant** 'Decorated by Bambi Sloan, it was pretty daring to fuse all these atmospheres – high and low tables, Ping-Pong, Moroccan symbols.'

**Caffè Stern** A historic engraver's shop on Passage des Panoramas was reborn as an Italian restaurant: 'Philippe Starck has done the furniture, the place has lots of layers and the food is as refined as the decor.'

**Musée des Arts Décoratifs** 'It is a perpetual source of inspiration, and wonderful to have a catalogue of all that has been done in French furniture. When I am trying to design an armchair, I come here.'



PHOTOGRAPH: VINCENT FERRANE



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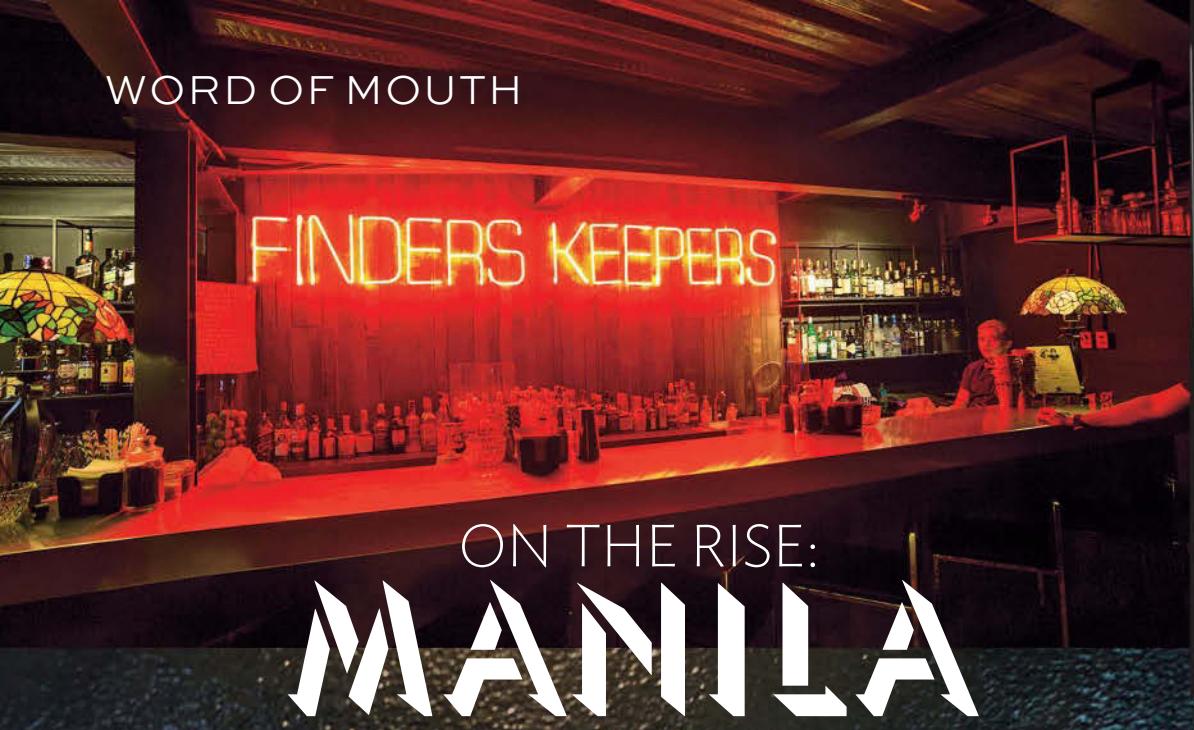
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## WORD OF MOUTH



# ON THE RISE: MANILA

The Philippines' capital has been battered by typhoons and bombings. It is an Asian megacity with a medieval Spanish walled town at its heart; it is chaotic and seedy in parts – with strip joints and dwarf-wrestling clubs – but steeped in old-world glamour. If you want to push the envelope, set your sights on Manila



## THE CULTURE

The arts scene is thriving and captured in the new Fringe Manila festival, which will run from 12 February to 1 March and showcase events including poetry and dance in pop-up venues across the city.

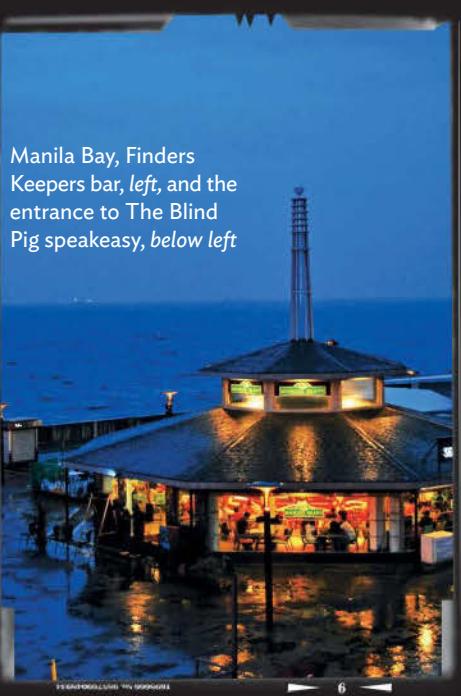
Inside a restored colonial townhouse, **1335Mabini** is the newest art space, hosting exhibitions by emerging local and international contemporary artists.

## THE RESTAURANT

Brooklyn diner **Purple Yam** puts a modern twist on Filipino classics, such as *lechonk kawali* (deep-fried pork belly served with pickled papaya). And now it has opened a sister restaurant in the owner's ancestral Malate home.



Manila Bay, Finders Keepers bar, left, and the entrance to The Blind Pig speakeasy, below left



## THE BARS

The backstreets of Makati conceal a handful of speakeasy-style bars.

Try **Finders Keepers**, if you can locate it. Hidden behind Joe's Meat Shack diner in Warehouse 5, its entrance doesn't have a light, or even a sign. Head through the rusting steel door flanked by two inconspicuous bouncers for expertly crafted cocktails, DJ sets and a dressed-down crowd. **The Curator** is a coffee shop by day and cocktail den by night, where mixologists whip up the likes of the New Black: a heady combo of Hennessy Cognac, espresso and grapefruit juice. And behind a secret door at the Bugsy Restaurant in Salcedo, **Red Rabbit** is a glamorous drinking haven with 1920s decor.



The Met gallery, local visual artist Kelvin Atmadibrata and The Curator cocktail bar, far left

A space-invader wall in The Curator and The Four Strings shop, below



## THE HOTELS

Malate's faded architecture and boho spirit were the inspiration for two just-opened hotels in the neighbourhood. **The Luneta** (doubles from about £60), built in belle-époque style during the pre-World War II boom, had closed after decades in decline. Now, following restoration, it's an exquisite hark back to 1918. **The Amélie** (doubles from about £60) fuses modern and Art Deco-inspired interiors designed by Anton Barretto. Plans are afoot to bring music and artwork by local creatives to the public spaces.

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARITES FALCON/IMAGEBRIEF;  
NACHO HERNANDEZ/PATTY LAGER/GETTY IMAGES;  
IVAN SARENA/IMAGEBRIEF; KENNY SINATRA



A rollercoaster in the city, coffee at The Four Strings and Bambike bicycles, top



**THE TOUR**  
Explore the old walled city of Intramuros at wind-in-your-hair speed on a Bambike Eco Tour.  
The stylish and sustainable bamboo bicycles are handmade by craftsmen working with a community charity.

**THE SHOPS**  
Quezon City's vintage arcade, Cubao Expo, is a hotbed for home-grown designers. **Coast Thru Life** has everything an urbanite needs to escape to the waves for surf weekends (boardies, boards and branded T-shirts). **The Four Strings** is a musicians' hangout that sells hand-painted ukuleles, and over at Makati's LRI Design Plaza there's a cluster of chic design stores. **Heima** is the creation of leading Manila interior designer Rossy Yabut-Rojales and sells international brands alongside her own brightly coloured range. Stock up on the art books and vinyl records too.

ISOBEL DIAMOND



WORD OF MOUTH

## IMPERIAL MEASURE

At first glance **Chengdu** looks like a lot of other Chinese cities, rising towards the sky in a futuristic tangle of metal and glass. But hidden amid the skyscrapers are a growing number of neighbourhoods that take their inspiration from China's imperial past. It's an accidental trend. After the restoration of the historic **Wuhou Temple**, right, revived its ancient timber, grey brick and carved tiles, nearby hotels and restaurants started to take design cues from the shrine.

Then whole blocks with period features began appearing across the city. Some places, such as **Yu's Family Kitchen** in Kuanzhai Alley, are all about details: modern versions of vintage porcelain are the focal point here (alongside the food). Each of the 34 courses in chef Yu Bo's tasting menu, including the signature dish – calligraphy brushes made from pastry, filled with pork and dipped in sweet tomato ink – is served in a different, delicate vessel. Others go further. **Buddha Zen**, a hotel near Wenshu Monastery, has its own mini-temple. The latest expression of this desire to embrace Chengdu's past as well as its future is **The Temple House**, from the people behind Beijing's The Opposite House and Hong Kong's The Upper House. Part of the reconstructed complex surrounding the Daci Temple, it is designed by UK-based Make Architects, who are combining the thousand-year-old building with a contemporary take on classic Chinese style. A Qing-dynasty frontage forms the entrance, behind which is a courtyard filled with bamboo plants and stepping stones. Rising above are the hotel's two new towers, each wrapped in a façade inspired by Sichuan weaving and brocade. QIN XIE



## CAPE CRUSADERS

South Africa's quirkiest wineries may be on a roll, with wine festivals in the Swartland and silky reds from the Hemel en Aarde Valley winning prizes. But now the Western Cape's traditional vineyards are fighting back. Sleepy old **MONT ROCHELLE** in Franschhoek, bought by Richard Branson last year, has reopened after a sleek redesign, while Indian billionaire Analjit Singh has snapped up three wine farms to form **DASSENBERG ESTATES**. Opening this autumn, it will have 20 plush rooms in a restored Cape Dutch manor and cottages, a

spa and organic restaurant. The **BOSCHENDAL** vineyard has also been reconfigured for farm stays in the historic Rhodes Cottage, pictured, and revamped labourers' houses, with a restaurant under Christiaan Campbell, nicked from nearby Delaire Graff Estate. Finally, wine buffs will be glad to know that **KLEIN CONSTANTIA** also has new owners so its famous Vin de Constance is finally getting the home it deserves, with a refurbished winery and magnificent main house for tastings and riotous parties. PETER BROWNE



## THE TRENDS TAKING OFF AND THOSE RUNNING OUT OF FUEL

### ARRIVALS

#### GLASS HOUSES

Who wants walls in the wilderness when you can look out at snow and stars instead?

Immerse yourself in the Arctic at Kakslauttanen's glass igloos or in one of the new, completely transparent rooms at Hotel Aurora in Luosto

#### SINGAPORE

Not just for stopovers and shopping malls. Check out the burgeoning indie boutique scene, hipsterifying hoods (now: Tiong Bahru, next: Everton Park) and, opening this year, the new National Gallery Singapore

#### PLANE FOOD

So long 'chicken or beef?' – Heathrow is now offering take-on-board picnics from any of its restaurants in all five terminals

### DEPARTURES

#### LOST LUGGAGE

The smart suitcase has arrived. Several companies are hooking luggage up to GPS tracking, but the latest from Bluesmart will also charge your tech as well as digitally weighing and locking itself

#### BOUTIQUE HOTELS

With 300-roomers branding themselves 'boutique', small hoteliers are switching it up and bringing back the word 'inn'

#### LONELY NIGHTS

Is it a 21st-century way to meet fellow guests or simply Tinder for travellers? Whatever you have in mind, HelloTel is a new app that connects users checked into the same hotel. See you at the bar

\*LIGHTER. BRIGHTER.

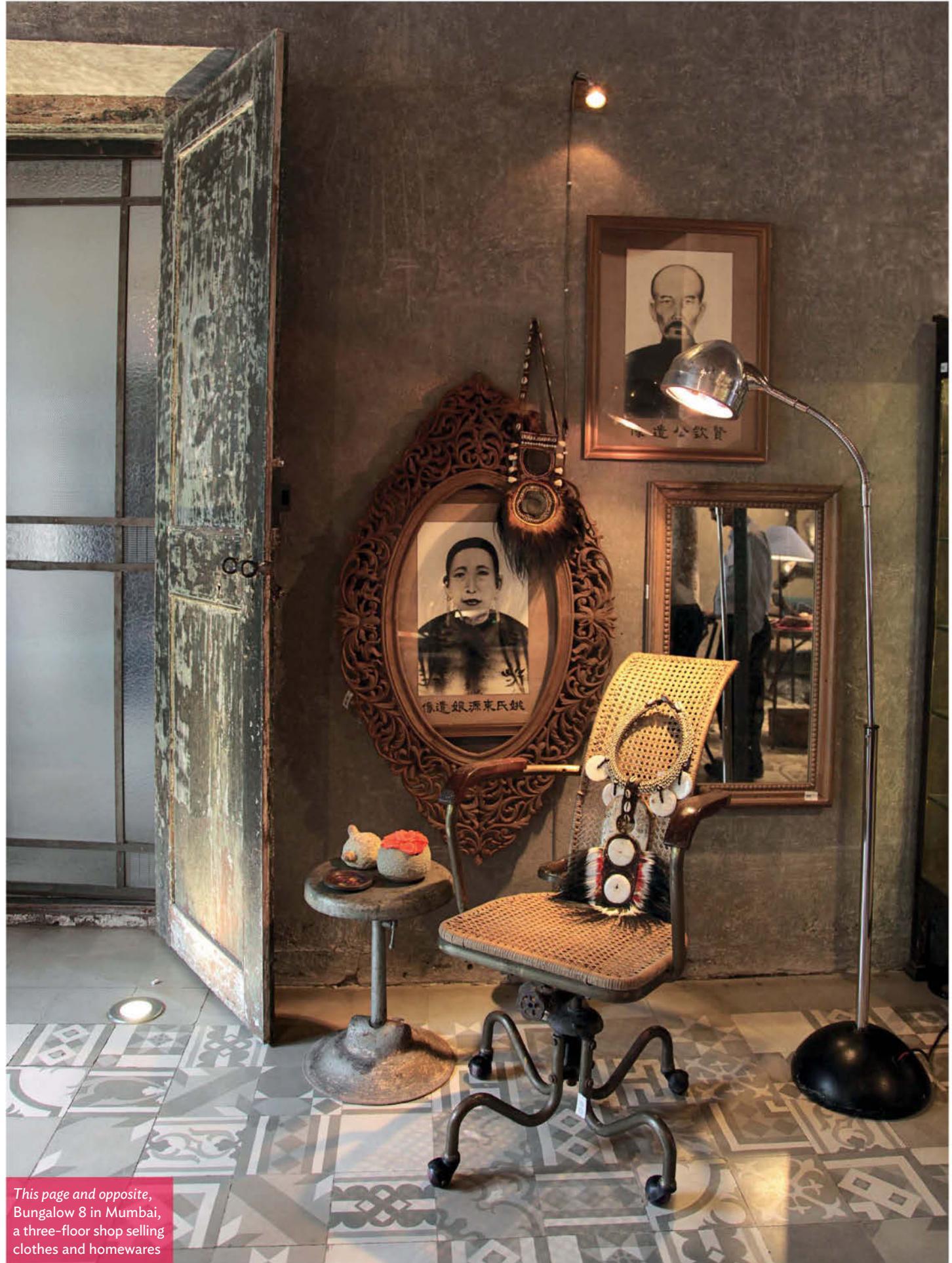


## Dance

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**LUX\***  
RESORTS & HOTELS

## SHORT BREAK



This page and opposite,  
Bungalow 8 in Mumbai,  
a three-floor shop selling  
clothes and homewares

# SHOPPING IN MUMBAI

It's not as cheap as it used to be, but getting a quick shot of retail therapy in this city still inspires the heady, reckless feeling which comes with the certainty that no one back home will own anything as exotic, colourful or distinctive. Although all the big international brands are here, the stores and markets are brimming with quirky treasures, and the real excitement comes with browsing roadside stalls selling gilded slippers and sparkly bracelets, or admiring the delicate work of local designers such as Abraham & Thakore, whose brocades and silks have been displayed at the V&A. The art of sexy concealment has been perfected in Mumbai, alongside the vibrant and the unashamedly gorgeous. By Daisy Finer

# SHORT BREAK



Clockwise from below: a Carl Hansen armchair at Le Mill; a Carina earring and Bandhani trousers at Bombay Electric; Bungalow 8; a display at Contemporary Arts and Crafts; a paper lamp at Le Mill; Bollywood posters at Chor Bazaar; Amrapali's Baza ring. Opposite from left: Good Earth; Bungalow 8; a Rhea ear cuff at Bombay Electric; Contemporary Arts and Crafts cushions



## COOLEST NOOKS

**BUNGALOW 8** It's not the New York nightclub, nor is there anything bungalow-like about the moody concrete mansion block that houses this three-floored lifestyle store. But it is brilliantly set up as if you are visiting a dusky vintage home crammed with clever finds and clean-lined Asian homewares. Long tables laid for a smart dinner party showcase linen tablecloths, gold antique picture frames are hung in clusters on the wall and wooden chests are crammed with knick-knacks and 1930s-style headbands (spotted in Fenwick for double the price). There's an in-house fashion label, The Bungalow, by former YSL and Lanvin designer Mathieu Gugumus Léguillon – sharp menswear is particularly popular. *Grants Building, 17 Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba (+91 22 2281 9880; www.bungalow8.com)*

**LE MILL** The Mumbai version of Paris's Colette is in a 1930s former rice mill in the docklands. It was opened by three young fashion-forward women (one helped set up *Indian Vogue*, another created the windows at Hermès). It may seem odd to come all this way for Isabel

Marant high-tops, Acne jeans and Raquel Allegra T-shirts, but there are also the prettiest candles, colourful dhurries from Jaipur, super-fine shawls from Kashmir, table linens, childrenswear, clutches and arm cuffs – as well as a florist and a café serving mango-and-rice salad and crumbly homemade banana loaf. A second branch recently opened in Breach Candy. *17–25 Nandlal Jani Road, Wadi Bunder East, Masjid Bunder (+91 22 2374 2415; www.lemillindia.com)*

### BOMBAY ELECTRIC

This trendy white space, just around the corner from the Taj Mahal Palace hotel, oozes with glamour, edge and eccentricity, and new collections land nearly twice a month. Accessories are displayed on old sewing machines topped with glass, walls are decorated with modern Indian art. You'll

find fashion by established designers such as Manish Arora and Rajesh Pratap Singh, up-and-coming Indian labels and a sprinkling of international brands.

Highlights include boxes of retro Bollywood posters and eye-popping jewellery. *1 Reay House, Best Marg, Colaba (+91 22 2287 6276; www.bombayelectric.in)*

**ENSEMBLE** At this extravagant multi-designer showroom, the home-grown names far outshine more subdued international designers. Owner Tarun Tahiliani is a big deal in fashion circles (he is a master at combining

Indian craftsmanship with European silhouettes) and counts Jemima Khan and Naomi Campbell among his customers, as well as locals Kareena Kapoor and Shilpa Shetty. His couture pieces, with glorious details and feel-me fabrics, are a hit with brides and sit alongside clothes by high-profile





PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL RUBENSTEIN

◀ 6 ▶

designers Manish Malhotra and Monisha Jaising. *Great Western Building, 130–132 Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Colaba (+91 22 2284 3227; [www.ensembleindia.com](http://www.ensembleindia.com))*

**SABYASACHI** You won't find this under-the-radar store unless someone has told you about it. Here old clocks, mirrors, tiles, sepia photographs and mismatched vintage plates jostle for space on the walls, and there are painted shoes, art, jewellery and antiques from all over India. Rose oil scents the air, an effect that is reminiscent of the Kolkata bungalow where owner and designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee grew up. You might recognise his name from Browns London, which has sold his collections. He is renowned for his heavy, ornate saris, dresses and exquisite bridal wear with a vibrant palette and textures inspired by gypsies. *Ador House, 6K Dubash Marg, Kala Ghoda (+91 22 2204 4777; [www.sabyasachi.com](http://www.sabyasachi.com))*

**AHILAYA** The smartest and best-made *kurtas* – loose, collarless tunics – are sold here. Soft, dainty and hand-embellished, they come in a rainbow of colours from peacock blue to candy pink. Modern cuts are a new twist on the traditional Lucknowi

*chikankari* (wear them layered over skinny jeans), but remain romantic with trails of white flowers around the neckline and billowing Victorian sleeves or empire lines.

The owners, a trio of sisters (Farha, Nagma and Sana Ansari), are behind New York label Leaves of Grass, which sells on Net-a-Porter. This is their flagship, with crystal chandeliers and marble floors, but there are also stores in Santa Cruz and Bandra. *Shop No 2 and 3, Ram nimi Building, Mandlik Road, Colaba (+91 22 2202 3788)*

**NEEMRANA CHIKANKARI** This brilliant boho find on the ground floor of the Opera House is known for its exquisite embroidery. Cottons from Lucknow, chiffon blouses and robes are laid out in gigantic piles on wooden tables; before you know it you'll be up to your knees in *kurtas* – some with sequin detailing, some sleeveless, some flowery. They make the perfect beach cover-up or sweet summer dress. *Shop No 6, Purshotham Building, New Queen's Road (+91 22 2367 7780)*

### BEST FOR FABRICS

**KALA NIKETAN** This cavern is filled with rows and rows of gorgeous, glistening



material, including plain silks, satins and embroidered brocades. A painted sign urges: 'Woman, you always looked good in saree!' There are metres and metres of ribbons too – far cheaper than VV Rouleaux in London and perfect for wrapping up presents (although they are meant to trim saris). *95 Queen's Road (+91 22 2200 5001; [www.kalaniketangroup.com](http://www.kalaniketangroup.com))*

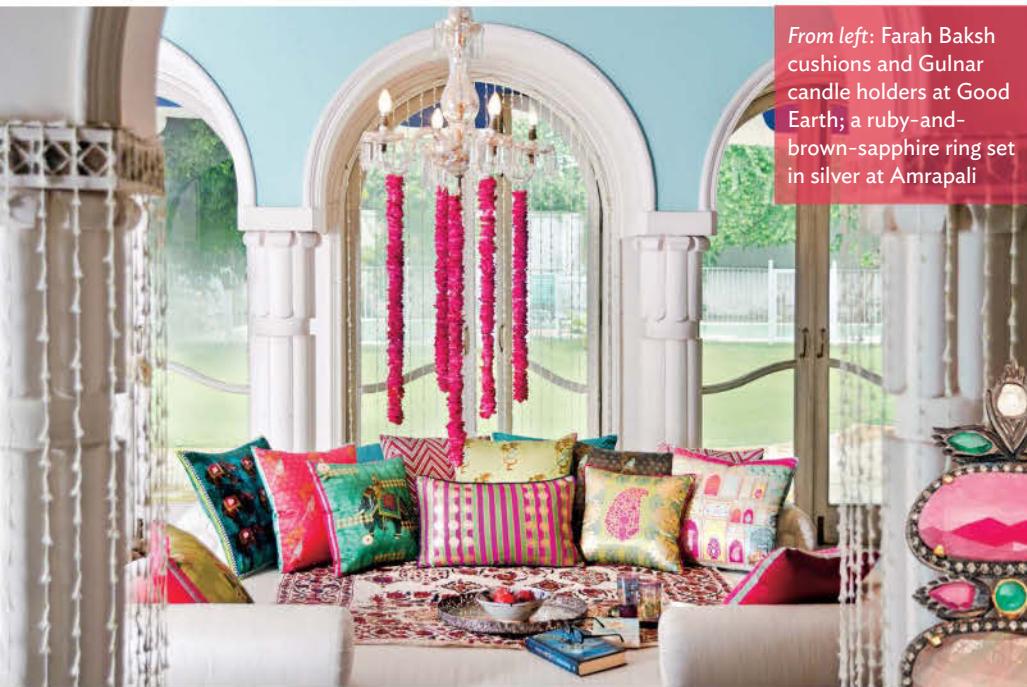
### BEST FOR JEWELLERY

**AMRAPALI** At this shop loved by Hollywood and Bollywood stars alike ancient meets ethnic, meets wearable, meets special occasion. Beautiful, fine, yellow-gold pendant earrings with polka diamonds from the Mughal Collection sit alongside antique-silver necklaces and contemporary drop earrings. *Shop No 28 and 29, Oberoi Shopping Centre, The Oberoi Hotel, Nariman Point (+91 22 2284 3687; [www.amrapalijewels.com](http://www.amrapalijewels.com))*

### BEST FOR HOMEWARES

**GOOD EARTH** A destination mega-store for home trinkets, including coloured-glass vases, neon-pink candles, silk cushions and quilted bedspreads. Come here for a ➤

## SHORT BREAK



From left: Farah Baksh cushions and Gulnar candle holders at Good Earth; a ruby-and-brown-sapphire ring set in silver at Amrapali



6

► great range of children's towels and bedding, lotus-shaped soap dishes, incense sticks, tea sets, trays and lanterns – all chic, colourful and funky. There's also an art-book section, and a restaurant and bakery selling passion-fruit macaroons. Look out for Good Earth's other small outlet beside the Taj Mahal Palace hotel. *Raghuvanshi Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (+91 22 2495 1954; www.goodearth.in)*

### CONTEMPORARY ARTS & CRAFTS

Everything in this store, including the wooden salad servers, pashminas and wall hangings (perfect for a little girl's bedroom), is sourced in India. And shopping here supports hundreds of craft workers. The cotton blankets, lamps, mother-of-pearl-inlaid boxes and scented soaps make fabulous gifts. *210 Taj Building, DN Road, Fort (+91 22 6657 6069; www.cac.co.in)*

**ANOKHI** This place has been going strong for years and the vegetable-dyed, hand-block-printed cotton fabrics in lovely patterns, covering ready-made curtains, sarongs, crushed skirts and tablecloths, are still popular. But it's the soft, deep, quilted bedspreads you'll covet the most. *Rasik Niwas, Metro Motors Lane, Dr AR Rangnekar Marg, Chowpatty (+91 22 2368 5761)*

**FILTER** Come here for prints, stationery, graphic-design books, magazines and maps. The shop's look is all-white, a bit like an art gallery. There are one-off framed posters, notebooks made from recycled dictionaries and designs by Bombay Duck artist Sameer Kulavoor,

including his limited-edition *100% Zine* and *The Ghoda Cycle Project*, a fun, screen-printed and illustrated look at Indian bicycles. *43 VB Gandhi Marg, Kala Ghoda, behind Rhythm House, Fort (+91 22 2288 7070; www.filtershop.co.in)*

### BEST TAILORS

**GOLDEN BOUTIQUE** The amazing Avinash Punjabi has tailored suits for *Vogue India*'s fashion director and Bollywood star Imran Khan. Choose from hundreds of rolls of fabric, give him your specifications (he can work from magazine cuttings or sketches) and measurements, and one of his nimble-fingered team will replicate your favourite designer dress or pin-sharp suit overnight. *4 Mandlik Road, Colaba Causeway (+91 22 2202 8327)*

**BURLINGTON'S** A great place to get made-to-measure clothes (they run up a mighty-fine silk dressing gown), or bring your favourite item to be copied, which they will send to you in the post. When it arrives, beautifully packaged in layers of tissue paper interspersed with sequins, it's the best pass-the-parcel ever – worth the wait just for the excitement. *The Taj Mahal Palace, Apollo Bunder, Colaba (+91 22 2202 5593; www.burlingtons.in)*

### BEST HOTEL SHOPS

Some of the most interesting stores are in the Oberoi and Taj shopping arcades. At the former, look out for Shawls: this is pashmina central and you'll soon be

buried in the most exquisite styles – plain, embroidered, double thickness – in every colour. At the Taj, Maharaja sells excellent, good-value linen shirts. *60 New Oberoi Shopping Centre (+91 22 2284 5736). The Taj Mahal Palace (+91 22 2202 8452)*

### BEST MARKETS

For antique bargains head to Chor Bazaar (Thieves' Market), where finds include crystal chandeliers and elephant seats. Dealers from New York and London come here to buy in bulk before adding an extortionate mark-up. It's great fun to visit. The Colaba Causeway street market has an exotic array of clothing. Haggle hard.

### BEST PERSONAL SHOPPER

Monica Vaziralli understands that shopping in Mumbai is not just a pastime, it's the main event. An interior-designer-turned-personal-shopper, she knows everybody, is impossibly glamorous and exudes such an imposing presence that no hawkers come near. She is a brilliant companion and guide, tracking down everything you desire and, dangerously, much more. Book her through Greaves India. 

### GETTING THERE

**Greaves India** (+44 20 7487 9111; [www.greavesindia.co.uk](http://www.greavesindia.co.uk)) offers four nights from £1,495 per person B&B, including two nights at the Taj Mahal Palace and two nights at The Oberoi, Virgin Atlantic flights, private transfers and sightseeing, and a personal shopper in Mumbai

SWISS HERITAGE | MODERN DESIGN

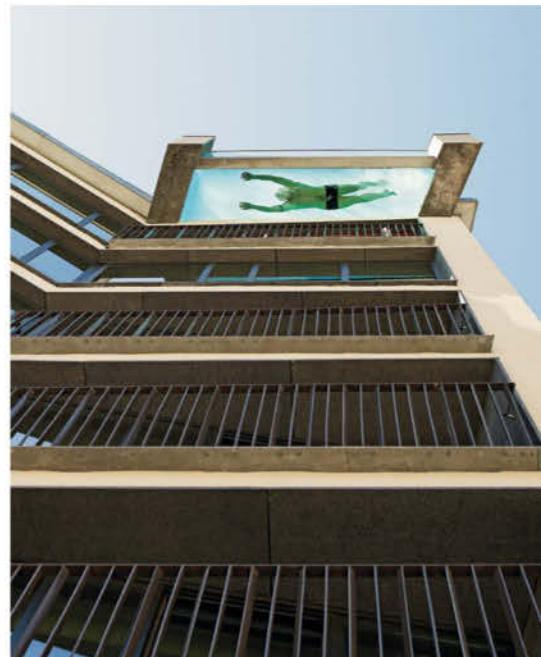
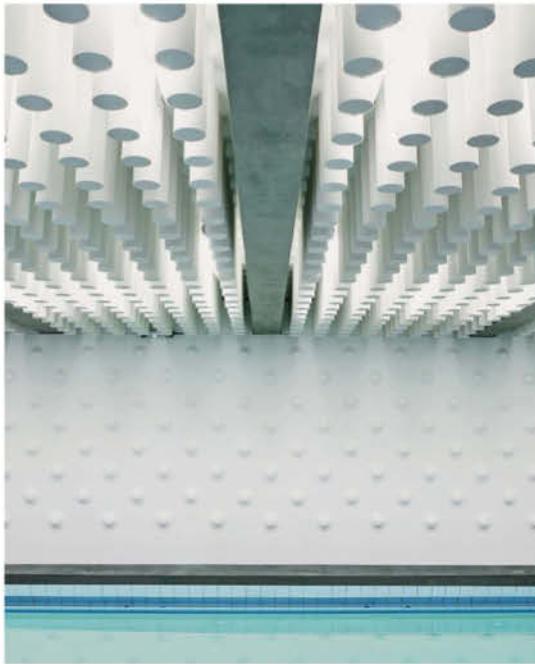


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# POOLS

These watery wonders aren't just for swimming – they give a fluid perspective on the world

**Top row, from left:** a low-hanging wooden roof shades bathers at the I-Resort's Tent spa near **Nha Trang**, Vietnam; at the Atlas Sports Centre in **Paris**, bubbles on the walls and pins suspended from the ceiling are not just a design touch but reduce echo; the water at The Library hotel on **Koh Samui** glows a shimmering scarlet thanks to its orange, yellow and red mosaic tiling; at the minimalist Villa K outside **Marrakech**, the 30-metre-long pool stretches out towards the Atlas Mountains; in the port of **Le Havre**, French architect Jean Nouvel created a series of 12 liquid spaces, divided by Tetris-like geometric blocks, for Les Bains des Docks.

**Middle row, from left:** Badeschiff translates as 'bathing ship', apt for this floating number on **Berlin's Spree River**; at Domus Civita, in the hilltop Italian town of **Civita di Bagno**, the pool is hidden in a cave beneath the house; take the plunge at Villa Althea on **Kefalonia** and find yourself suspended 300 metres above Myrtos beach; lengths at **Hong Kong's Hotel Indigo** are also not for the faint-hearted – the water cantilevers over the edge of the 29th floor; looking over the infinity edge to the Ayung River valley at **Alila Ubud** in **Bali**.

**Bottom row, from left:** a waterfall at Les Bains des Docks, **Le Havre**; Amangiri appears out of the **Utah** desert like a mirage, centred around its dramatic pool; swim suspended in mid-air on the rooftop of Avalon hotel in **Gothenberg**; the ruins of the original estate have been flooded to create this atmospheric spot at Hacienda Uayamon in Mexico's **Yucatán Peninsula**; Casa No Tempo's sunken swimming pool, with its beach-like edge, blends into the countryside outside **Lisbon**. FIONA KERR



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# WHERE TO STAY

Reviews of the month in **Botswana** **Berlin** **Devon** + **Luke Evans**

EDITED BY PETER BROWNE

EXCLUSIVE FIRST REVIEW

## SWING INTO ACTION

An extraordinary new-look lodge is an instant hit even in high-octane Botswana



Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge, part of the AndBeyond portfolio, has just reopened after a radical rebuild. Even in Botswana, which has some of the most admired wilderness camps and lodges in southern Africa, Sandibe is instantly up there with the best. It's charming and friendly, the service is relaxed but on-it, the food is excellent and the design is remarkable. It's a far cry from the traditional safari idiom. Inspiration was taken from the nests of the weaverbird and the overlapping scales of the pangolin. The result is a beautiful cathedral to nature, a cathedral of timber – timber of different types, textures and tones. The 12 suites resemble giant baskets, suspended between trees on the banks of the Sandibe River, alive with a chorus of frogs and hippos. They manage to feel both cocoon-like and wide-open, intimate and expansive. This is a grown-up, meditative retreat in a game-rich, glittering section of the delta where wild dog, lion, cheetah, leopard, red lechwe antelope and elephant are regular visitors. Butler service means that a late lunch of, say, chilled avocado-and-cucumber soup, thin-crust pizza and deconstructed Caesar salad – presented theatrically on copper trays – can be delivered private-poolside. The interiors are pared-down, simple, quietly smart. Leather beanbags replace sofas and ironwood tree stumps serve as tables. 'It's always tempting to go overboard with "stuff",' says designer Debra Fox. 'Instead, we practised restraint, giving guests just what they need.' JANE BROUGHTON +27 11 809 4300; [www.andbeyond.com](http://www.andbeyond.com). Doubles from about £1,170 all-inclusive

WHERE TO STAY

LOFT-STYLE APARTMENTS

BERLIN

By Gisela Williams

UNDER  
£150

DESIGNER  
MINILOFT

A decade after this aparthotel opened, it's still one of the city's most stylish places to stay.

The two adjoining buildings – one historic, the other a futuristic new-build clad in stainless steel – were designed and renovated by Britta Jürgens and Matthew Griffin, forward-thinking architects who specialise in green buildings. The minimalist apartments – it's worth paying for the extra space of an Introverted or Extroverted loft – have exposed concrete floors and walls, under-floor heating and floor-to-ceiling windows. Furniture is a well-edited mix of contemporary Danish items and simple, sturdy Ikea pieces; the small but efficient kitchens are stocked with basics (coffee, olive oil, organic cleaning supplies). There's a hidden roof terrace, open to all, with impressive views of the Berlin skyline. Although officially in Mitte, the lofts are a bit off the beaten track, near Nordbahnhof station, which is currently the site of a lot of construction work; however, the aparthotel's guides are happy to point guests in the direction of nearby highlights and hotspots. Jürgens and Griffin are now designing a second outpost in Kreuzberg, near Checkpoint Charlie, which will incorporate art studios and work spaces.

[www.miniloft.com](http://www.miniloft.com). From about £75



## HIPSTER SOHO HOUSE BERLIN LOFTS



When it first opened in 2010, Soho House Berlin faced criticism from locals who thought this wasn't the place for a luxury members-only club from London. After all, Berlin is all about breaking down barriers, not creating them. But the new House survived, and now thrives: the hotel's 65 rooms are almost always booked solid, and some of the city's brightest talents have become members. It's common knowledge that George Clooney moved in when filming *The Monuments Men*, and the House has been home to many other visiting celebrities. To make more room for VIPs, four lofts were added last year in an adjoining building.

Created by the in-house design team from New York, with help from Soho House founder Nick Jones himself, the rockstar crash-pads are a major departure from the clubby velvet-and-chintz interiors of the hotel rooms. The living rooms are stylishly outfitted in a cool, mid-century-style mix of Eames chairs, massive wooden dining tables, Moroccan rugs, an open kitchen and vintage DJ decks. Some have two bedrooms, others three, all with private bathrooms. The lofts are popular with local tastemakers as party venues, with plenty of boys' toys: table football; a 5.1 cinema system and 75-inch TV; and a record collection created by London-based The Vinyl Factory. [www.sohouseberlin.com/lofts](http://www.sohouseberlin.com/lofts). Two-bedroom lofts from about £1,100



## WHERE TO STAY



UNDER  
£150

### WATERY MODERN BOAT

This is a sleek, all-white, 60-square-metre apartment with an open-plan kitchen, fireplace and minimalist bedroom flooded with light. It also floats on water. Docked in a small bay on the Spree River surrounded by reeds and ducks, it's about 25 minutes' bike ride from the city centre, and just 15 minutes from the famous club Berghain. This one's for design-savvy travellers bored with formulaic boutique-hotel rooms, couples looking for a quirky romantic getaway, or urban adventurers in need of a private pocket of serenity to retire to during a weekend of clubbing. Owned by the two brothers behind Welcome Beyond – a more upmarket version of Airbnb – the boat comes equipped with two sturdy hipster bicycles and a city map. If you tire of cooking, the neighbouring Hafenküche café is a terrific spot for a long, lazy weekend brunch. Although that fireplace keeps temperatures toasty in winter, life on the river is certainly more appealing in summer, when there are boats to rent for further exploration and the more daring may be tempted to dive off the terrace straight into the Spree.

[www.welcomebeyond.com](http://www.welcomebeyond.com). From about £145

## HI-TECH ST OBERHOLZ



Walk into the St Oberholz café, furnished with a homely mix of mismatched tables, and you'll find it packed with students and young professionals behind Apple laptops, fuelled by cappuccinos and homemade cakes. Owner Ansgar Oberholz opened the café on busy Rosenthaler Platz in the heart of Mitte in 2005. 'We knew we wanted to revive the energy of the space – in the 1920s it was a famous beer hall popular with artists and writers – but we never guessed that we'd end up attracting such a hi-tech crowd and becoming one of the city's most popular IT and creative hubs.' The trick was to provide free Wi-Fi and allow the use of laptops, which even now is uncommon in Berlin. In 2007, Oberholz opened two big, light-filled apartments above the café, each with three bedrooms and a kitchen. The interiors feel both classic and contemporary, with high ceilings and original wooden floors, sleek white tables and funky black-and-white murals by local artists. A work space was recently added on one floor, and early next year Oberholz will open up a whole new building right around the corner. Also to be called St Oberholz, it will be a similar mix of café, work space and three modern, two-storey apartments. [www.sanktoberholz.de](http://www.sanktoberholz.de). From about £175



UNDER  
£150

## ELEGANT GORKI APARTMENTS

These smart, year-old apartments are full of dramatic little details, starting with the subtle signage above the front door and fictitious names – such as Clara Ludwig – in an old-fashioned font next to the 35 buzzers. So it's hardly surprising to discover that Gorki's affable general manager, Peter Ehrlich, one of the driving forces behind the property, is a former actor. Together with architect Kim Wang and interior designer Sandra Pauquet, he has worked hard to inject real character into these comfortable, chic suites. Even in Lotte, one of the smallest, there's a wall of metallic tiles in the tiny kitchen and a variety of surfaces – reclaimed wood for the sliding bathroom door, light parquet floors, funky black-and-white octagonal tiles in the bathroom – creating a cool-looking space with a touch of edgy glamour. Most of the other apartments are much bigger, with a bedroom and separate living space generous enough to entertain, and all are different: a rustic wooden dining table might be surrounded by a mix of chairs found at a flea market; in the corner could be a piece from Dixon or Knoll. But what really makes the apartments stand out is the fact that, although they are in a very central location on the border of the buzzy Mitte and Prenzlauer Berg neighbourhoods, most of them are set around a quiet courtyard at the back, so you can actually get a good night's sleep.

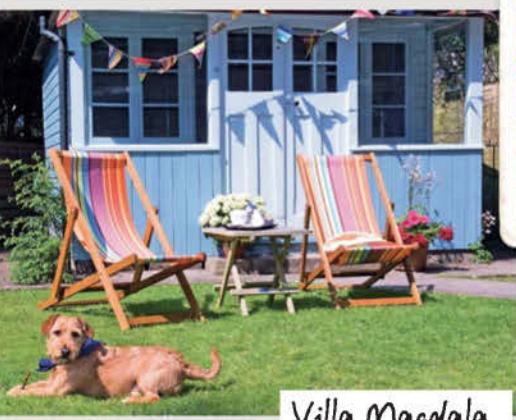
[www.gorkiapartments.de](http://www.gorkiapartments.de). From about £90

## WHERE TO STAY



### SALLY SHALAM'S GREAT BRITISH BREAKS

This month, our happy wanderer skips around southern England to find the UK's biggest cider stash and the homeliest new shop in Bath



Villa Magdala



The Organic Farm Shop

**S**erendipity came out to play last December when I read a newspaper cutting in a shop window about **Ditchling Museum of Art and Craft**, reopened by Sir Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate galleries, after an architectural transformation. I decided I had to go and see it for myself.

Skirting the South Downs on the A27 at Firle, I spotted the sign for a café and pulled in for a coffee. The **Middle Farm** sign only hinted at what lay in store: café, yes, but also a food shop crammed with condiments and preserves and a butcher's selling 'lovingly made sausages' (I can vouch for the beef-and-Harveys-ale). I also found plants, live poultry (for one's weekend smallholding), a gift shop sparkling with decorations and an intriguing cider shop.

Inside, Jimi Hendrix played on the sound system and row upon wickedly dark row of barrels lay in wait, the air heady with fermented apple. Tasting notes said things like: 'notorious Rum Rooster... casks come from Barbados and usually there's a bit of rum in the bottom'. The cheerful crew at the counter told me theirs is the largest collection of cider and perry (made from pears) in the UK. They really should put that on the sign, rather than 'café'. Eventually,

reached the museum, a contemporary gem and home to sculpture, wood engravings and paintings by the artistic community Eric Gill founded here in the early 1900s. **The Bull** (doubles from £120) is the place to stay and eat in 16th-century cosiness, and I can also recommend Sunday lunch at **The White Horse**.

Of course, Daylesford in the Cotswolds is the Ferrari of farm shops, but I love the simple **Organic Farm Shop** outside Cirencester for hand-blocked Indian-cotton bed linen, vibrant painted pots and boxes, and Herbfarmacy's organic English beauty treats (Melissa Lip Nurse, damask rose serum). On my last trip, I ate splendid *ribollita* and pear tarte tatin at **The Five Alls** (doubles from £110) in the village of Filkins, but I shall time my next for afternoon tea at the revamped **King's Head** (doubles from £120), which is just the sort of place Cirencester has been waiting for.

Last summer, just across the M4 near Royal Wootton Bassett, I visited a pop-up shop by the artisanal-homeware expert Silvana de Soissons. Now her online emporium, [www.thefoodiebugleshop.com](http://www.thefoodiebugleshop.com), is about to open in a permanent home (with a café, rumour has it) in a Georgian townhouse in Bath, between the Royal Crescent and the Circus. **The Foodie Bugle Shop** is sure to become the go-to place, as de Soissons has a penchant for wares including Andrew Pentland's chunky ceramics and beeswax votives.

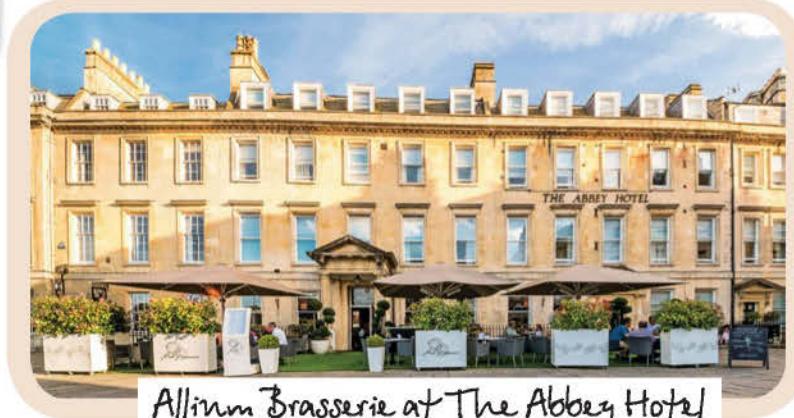
Right now Bath is at its loveliest: the parks and rooftops dusted with frost, candles glimmering in ancient nooks, and the aromas of gingerbread and mulled wine wafting from stalls in the shadow of the abbey. My top tip for stylish, affordable rooms is **Villa Magdala** (doubles from £110), which is within walking distance of everything, such as **Allium Brasserie**, where the menu includes delights like Cornish mackerel with salt-cod brandade, confit duck leg and warming haricot-bean cassoulet.



The Five Alls

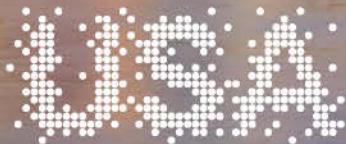


The Bull



Allium Brasserie at The Abbey Hotel

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## WHERE TO STAY

# BED-HOPPING WITH LUKE EVANS

The Welsh star of *Dracula Untold* and *The Hobbit* tells **Francesca Babb** about his top hotels



### SOHO BEACH HOUSE, MIAMI

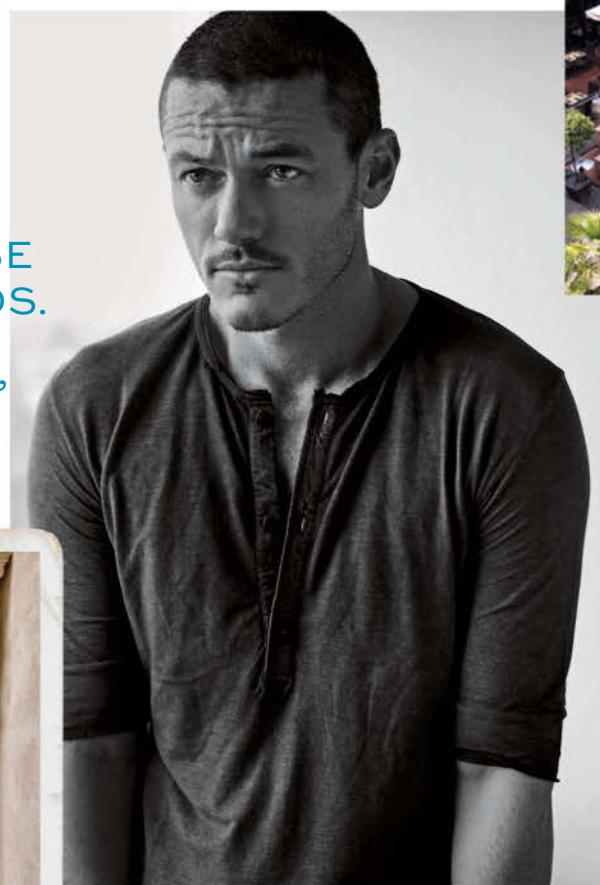
'This is one of my favourite places ever. It's just outside the craziness, so you can be right in the middle of it all but then come back to calm and serenity in 10 minutes. The restaurant is beautiful, with hundreds of hanging jars filled with tea lights, and the food is fantastic. There's a stunning Art Deco pool, too. They've just got it absolutely right.' [www.sohobeachhouse.com](http://www.sohobeachhouse.com). Doubles from about £230



### CORINTHIA HOTEL LONDON

'I rate hotels on three things: the service, the food and the gym. The Corinthia has the best hotel gym I've ever been in, and the spa is incredible. I had a butler when I stayed here for *Dracula Untold*, so I invited my family and friends over for Champagne in my room before the premiere.' [www.corinthia.com/london](http://www.corinthia.com/london). Doubles from £342

**'SOHO BEACH  
HOUSE HAS THESE  
HUGE SLEIGH BEDS.  
I REALLY WANT  
ONE OF MY OWN'**



### CASA ELLUL, MALTA

'This place is run by two brothers who turned their family home into a boutique hotel. It only has eight bedrooms, and mine had a hot tub on the terrace overlooking the dome of the church next door. I had never been to Malta before, and I thought it might be a bit colonial, but I fell in love with it. One evening I was walking to dinner with friends as the sun was setting and we took off our clothes, dived into the sea, then dried off on the rocks and went on to the restaurant.' [www.casaellul.com](http://www.casaellul.com). Doubles from about £160



### BULGARI HOTEL MILAN

'A fabulous hotel with gardens that date back to 1305. It's graceful and sophisticated, with incredible food, especially the white-truffle pasta. The last time I was there, Roberta Armani took me to La Scala and asked a conductor friend if I could go on stage. So I went out and stood there, taking it all in. It was brilliant.' [www.bulgarihotels.com](http://www.bulgarihotels.com). Doubles from about £525



### HOTEL DU CAP-EDEN-ROC, CAP D'ANTIBES

'I once went to an amfAR charity gala in the grounds, and I thought it was the most extraordinary place. Then this year I got to stay here for the first time. There's an incredible diving board so you can plunge straight into the Mediterranean. It was raining, but I had to do it! So I had all these glamorous women sipping cocktails, looking on in horror at this mad Welshman jumping into the sea.' [www.hotel-du-cap-eden-roc.com](http://www.hotel-du-cap-eden-roc.com). Doubles from about £670

Luke Evans stars in '*The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*', which is released in the UK on 12 December



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## WHERE TO STAY



### THE WEEKENDER

## SALCOMBE HARBOUR DEVON

**WHAT IS IT?** One of the brightest, breeziest hotels in the country with amazing views out to sea – probably the most unfettered coastal aspect in Devon, if not the UK. It's pretty and fun, with a climb-aboard playfulness. After a multi-million-pound refurbishment, it reopened last summer with ship-shape white, cream and blue interiors, a retro wood-panelled cinema in dove-grey (with a miniature cherry-coloured popcorn machine) and detoxing mocktails in the mosaic-tiled ESPA spa.

**BEHIND THE SCENES** Little remains of the fusty original hotel other than its sensational position overlooking the estuary, but framed black-and-white shots of happy bathers at Salcombe in the 1890s are a reminder of the role it's played in this South Devon seaside town for ages. It now has a contemporary edge that was previously lacking and the attractive young staff shimmy around the light-filled public spaces, fragranced with own-brand scented candles.

**SLEEP** There are 50 rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows, the best having sliding glass doors opening on to balconies. Details include adorably labelled decanters of complimentary gin and sherry, little stacks of Thomas Hardy and John Keats editions, and a Famous Five-style Balcony Basket containing binoculars and throws to wrap up with on a cold day while savouring those views.

**EAT** The Jetty is arguably the best restaurant in town. It's a rewardingly cheerful place to be, even in mid-winter, with sunlight bouncing off the water below and a cool crowd of all ages cosying up on the blue-green, button-backed banquette. Self-taught chef Alex Aitken has come up with a couple of sensible but delicious menus (this place isn't about showing off) using mostly local ingredients – a twice-baked cheese soufflé, a simple but always-good sea bream, calves' liver and bacon – and a classic Taste of Britain set option (pork pies; Lancashire hotpot).

**WHO GOES THERE** Immaculately groomed silver-haired couples in preppy outfits, and younger yachties in boat shoes, vibrant polo shirts and jolly jumpers (not for nothing is Salcombe, the birthplace of Jack Wills clothing, dubbed Chelsea-on-Sea during the summer months).

**WHILE YOU'RE HERE** For teens, a pilgrimage to the original Jack Wills store; for parents, the Bellinis at the Dick and Wills brasserie. The beach at Bigbury is wonderful at any time of year, no matter how blustery, as is the slightly spooky Burgh Island with its famous Art Deco hotel. In summer, catch the ferry to South Sands for a paddle, or to Kingsbridge for a pootle about the cafés, bookshops and charity shops.

**WE LIKE** The unsolicited arrival of ice and lemon in our room at 5pm sharp.

**WE DON'T LIKE** There isn't a car park so you have to use valet parking, which can be a bit of a pain if you've got a spur-of-the-moment idea to go out and about.

**CONTACT** +44 1548 844444; [www.salcombe-harbour-hotel.co.uk](http://www.salcombe-harbour-hotel.co.uk). Doubles from £145  
EMMA SUDNIK

## WINNER



CONDÉ NAST  
TRAVELLER'S  
JOURNALISM  
COURSE  
2014

Emma Sudnik attended our writing and photography workshop held at Vogue House in London last year. The course included one-on-one appraisals by Condé Nast Traveller's features and photographic editors, and Emma's entry was judged best in class, winning her a weekend at the Salcombe Harbour Hotel & Spa in Devon and the chance to write up her experience for the magazine. Born to Polish parents, Emma grew up in Athens and is studying anthropology and archaeology at University College London. Her place on the writers' course was a 19th-birthday present from her father. Her favourite place in the world is Krakow in Poland.



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# NEIGHBOURHOOD ON THE UP

It was once the red-light district of Pest (Buda's other half), but now the crumbling former

WORDS EMMA LOVE



Clockwise from above: a piano at Brody House hotel; a bagel and the interior of Budapest Bagel; Brody Studios members' club; Brody House; a vintage print at the new gallery Brody Art Yard; the coffee bar at Lumen café

# District VIII, Budapest

palaces of Józsefváros have been transformed to create an arty enclave



## SEE

The **Károly Kós Gallery** is housed in the same grand building as the Association of Hungarian Architects. Set at the back of the courtyard, it puts on a different, heavyweight architecture-related retrospective every fortnight, such as a recent poster show celebrating 19th-century Hungarian architect Miklós Ybl, who designed the State Opera House. *Otpacsírtautca 2* ([www.meszorg.hu](http://www.meszorg.hu))

■ The upstairs gallery at **Ateliers Pro Arts** has rotating exhibitions of work, mostly by Hungarian artists, some of whom also have studios in the cobbled courtyard at the back. Downstairs, the light-filled bistro restaurant is a good spot for live jazz and blues at weekends. *Horászky Utca 5* (+36 1 486 2378; [www.ateliers.hu](http://www.ateliers.hu))

## SHOP

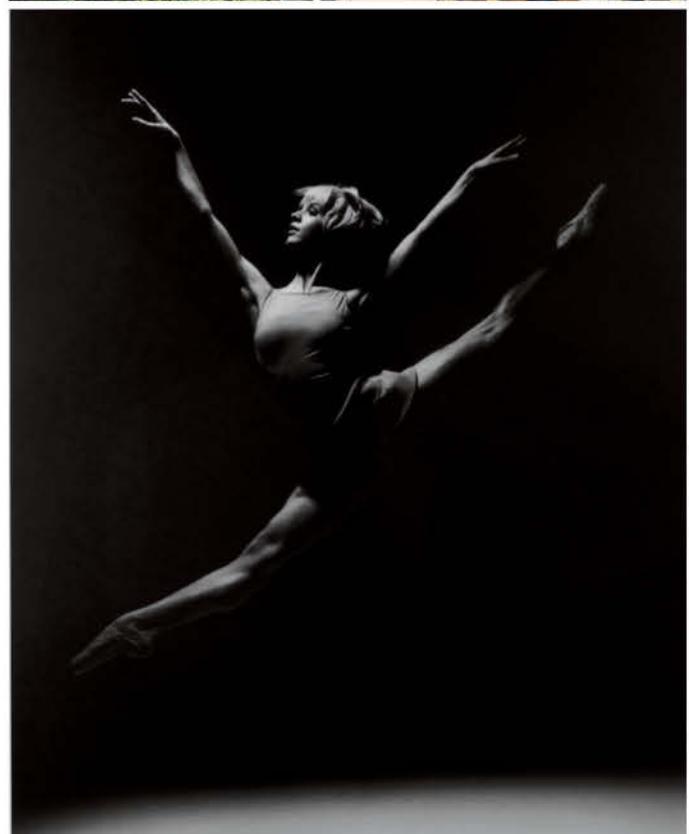
**Portéka Bolt** peddles a few locally made crafts, but the real reason to pop in is the delicatessen with Hungarian wines, jams, chutneys, truffle oils and seriously good milk and dark chocolate made by former sommelier Szanto Tibor. *Horászky Utca 27* (+36 70 313 0348; [www.portekabolt.hu](http://www.portekabolt.hu))

■ Ring bell 14 (the difficult-to-spot door is behind the gelato stand)

Don't miss

WATCHING AN ARTHOUSE EUROPEAN OR HUNGARIAN FILM (WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) AT THE BEAUTIFUL URANIA NATIONAL MOVIE THEATRE

([WWW.URANIA-NF.HU](http://WWW.URANIA-NF.HU)). BUILT IN THE 1890S AND ORIGINALLY A CABARET VENUE, IT COMBINES VENETIAN-GOTHIC AND MOORISH DESIGN. IT'S WORTH KEEPING AN EYE ON THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS TOO, AS THE THEATRE ALSO HOSTS SEVERAL FILM FESTIVALS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



and take the stairs to second-floor **FlatLab**, a showroom and studio for a handful of fashion and graphic designers. There's cycle gear by Urbanlegend, casual-yet-directional men's and women's clothing from designer Emese Kasza (her label is Mei Kawa) and text-filled canvases by Gergely Szőke on the walls. Lights are made from wooden coat hangers, the changing room is full of artwork and there are leather satchels by Kag and lovely Malinovka sketchbooks for sale too. *Baross Utca 3* (+36 30 949 4286; [www.flatlab.hu](http://www.flatlab.hu))

■ **Szputnyik** sells a mix of new and vintage fashion in a gallery-like space with white walls and wooden floors. The former mostly consists of printed vest tops, funky fluoro jumpers and pretty patterned dresses; the latter, jumpsuits and party frocks. There are also accessories: racks of second-hand shoes, belts laid out over an old wooden trunk and magpie-pleasing costume jewellery. *Dohány Utca 20* (+36 1 321 3730; [www.szputnyikshop.hu](http://www.szputnyikshop.hu))

## EAT

There's a woodland-fairytale feel to Russian restaurant **Matrjoska Bisztró**, which has owl illustrations on the wall

and bare bulbs that dangle over twigs hanging from the ceiling. Order as many starters and small bites as you can – bulgur-wheat salad and tomatoes, lamb blinis, herring and potato, smoked salmon and caviar – and wash it all down with shots of vodka. *Lőrinc pap Tér 3* (+36 1 796 8496; [www.matrjoskabiszstro.com](http://www.matrjoskabiszstro.com)). About £30 for two

■ Yellow-tiled steps and tons of greenery surround the entrance to all-day bar and restaurant **Café Csiga** (breakfast is until noon). Inside the main restaurant, mismatched wooden tables and chairs cluster around a wrought-iron spiral staircase. The kitchen whips up sharing platters and thick, warming goulash – and there are water bowls for dogs by the door. *Vásár Utca 2* (+36 30 613 2046). About £20 for two

## SNACK

Bagels, coffee and Hungarian craft beers are all that's on the menu at **Budapest Bagel**, a small shop with whitewashed brick walls, a concrete counter and floors, and a couple of wooden benches outside. The bagels, which are baked upstairs, are stacked in an upturned crate on the counter and toasted on the spot by bearded guys wearing backwards baseball caps. Savoury options include duck, ➤

# NEIGHBOURHOOD ON THE UP District VIII, Budapest

salami or sautéed peppers; for the sweet-toothed, there are cinnamon-and-raisin bagels with blueberry cream cheese or peanut butter. *Baross Utca 4 (+36 30 633 3608)*

■ For an afternoon sugar fix, stop off at **Jezsek Cukraszda**, a traditional patisserie and ice-cream parlour. The interiors are nothing special – there are just a couple of round marble tables – but the fancy delicacies displayed under the glass counter are delightful: poppy-seed-and-apple pie, white-chocolate-and-raspberry mousse and Józsefváros lemon-and-kiwi cake, which is light as air and a local speciality. *Népszínház Utca 53 (+36 1 333 4408; www.jezsek.hu)*

## DRINK

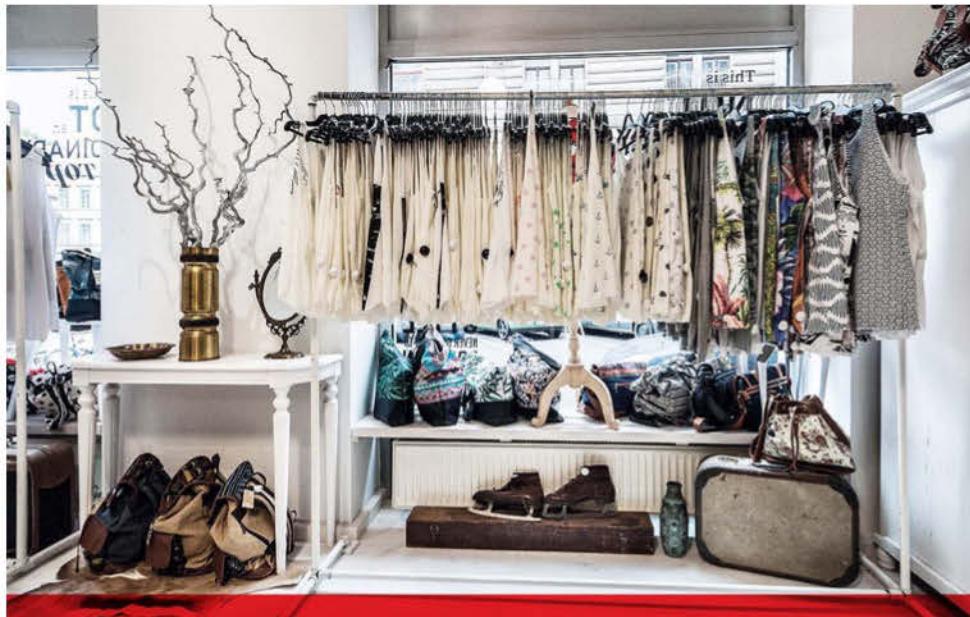
Ruin bars – pubs in disused old buildings and originally aimed at students – are all over Pest, but for something more grown-up, head to courtyard bar **MI**. The outdoor kitchen serves a mash-up of street food: Vietnamese caramelised pork belly, Thai chicken with lemongrass and Mexican empanadas. The place buzzes with a low-key thrum; some nights silent films are projected onto the wall, on others an art class takes over the communal table to paint by candlelight. *Mikszáth Tér 3 (+36 70 291 4668)*

■ The coolest café on Mikszáth Square, **Lumen** roasts its own coffee in the small gallery/events space next door (there are plans to sell bags of beans here too). Join the queue for a morning espresso at the bar in the back, then sit on old-school chairs or low, purple-painted triangular stools. There's an upright piano, a stash of board games and, at night, the place is packed with people drinking wine and listening to DJs playing jazz, folk and electronica. *Mikszáth Kálmán Tér 2 (+36 20 496 8317; www.lumenkave.hu)*

## SLEEP

The only hotel worth staying at is **Brody House**, and it's a lesson in the art of reclamation. Beds are made from wooden pallets or beams. Chairs have been turned into lights. Distressed cream doors are hung higgledy-piggledy on one wall; sheet music is papered over stripped-back plaster on another. Each of the 11 rooms is different, so if you're staying more than one night it's worth bed-hopping between them. Help yourself to drinks from the honesty bar in the living room or head to members' club Brody Studios (staying here means automatic entry), a five-minute cab ride away. The hotel also owns Brody Art Yard, a newly opened exhibition space, gallery and screen-printing studio. *Bródy Sándor Utca 10 (+36 1 266 1211; www.brodyhouse.com). Doubles from about £55*

■ For your own crashpad, book the **Little Whistle Apartment**, a few minutes' walk from District VIII. It's perfectly petite: the front door opens straight onto the kitchen with its breakfast bar for two. There's a double bedroom with smart striped linen and matching curtains tied back with rope, and a living room with another double mattress up a wooden ladder on a mezzanine level. Vintage street signs hang above the doors, there are pretty window boxes and a map marked with a few of the owners' favourite restaurants. The only downside is the bathroom, which is tiny and fairly basic. *www.airbnb.com/rooms/1078167. From about £35 per night (minimum two-night stay)*



Clockwise from above: new and vintage fashion at Szputnyik boutique; Matrjoska Bisztro Russian restaurant; a painting by Ludovic Thiriez at Brody Art Yard; a room at Brody House; the minimalist interior of Budapest Bagel; a cobbled street behind the Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library; a work by Gabor Keres at Brody Art Yard





## MY DISTRICT VIII

**Melinda Tóth**

FASHION DESIGNER FOR  
STREETWEAR LABEL DAIGE

'I rent a studio at the **Heinrich Creative Workshop** along with around 15 other designers; handily, it's right opposite the **Museum of Applied Arts**, which has a fantastically well-stocked library. I often pop in to look at books on costume history and architecture for inspiration. I spend a lot of time at the **Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library**, and the **Hungarian National Museum**, which has great exhibitions and gorgeous gardens where I go to chill out. For concerts, contemporary theatre and dance performances, I head to the **Trafó Gallery**, which used to be the electricity station for South Pest, or to the leftfield **Gólya centre**. My favourite pub in the area is buzzy **Jelen**. It does surprisingly good Thai food. Whenever I eat there, I order the *tom kha gai* sweet and spicy chicken soup or the curried duck.' [www.daige.hu](http://www.daige.hu)



# Life is a Celebration

*Austria is a country with a zest for life—and music. That's why the calendar is full of world-class festivals.*

Spectacular floating stage, colourful environment, opera festivals of the highest calibre: "The Magic Flute" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is performed in Bregenz.



Photo: Bregenzer Festspiele/Karl Forster



**F**ar beyond its borders, Austria is known as a country that knows how to live well. And Austrians are known as people who enjoy culture to the fullest. It's no surprise that the annual calendar is filled with more than 200 music and dance festivals. World-renowned events include the Bregenz Festival on the world's largest floating stage and the Salzburg Festival that was founded in 1920 laid the foundation for Austria's long-standing festivals tradition. There is a broad spectrum of offerings. Well known in Europe are the classical productions, such as the Styriarte in Graz, led by star-conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt, the Franz Liszt Festival in the Burgenland town of Raiding and the Tirolean Festival taking place in the architecturally futuristic theatre in Erl.

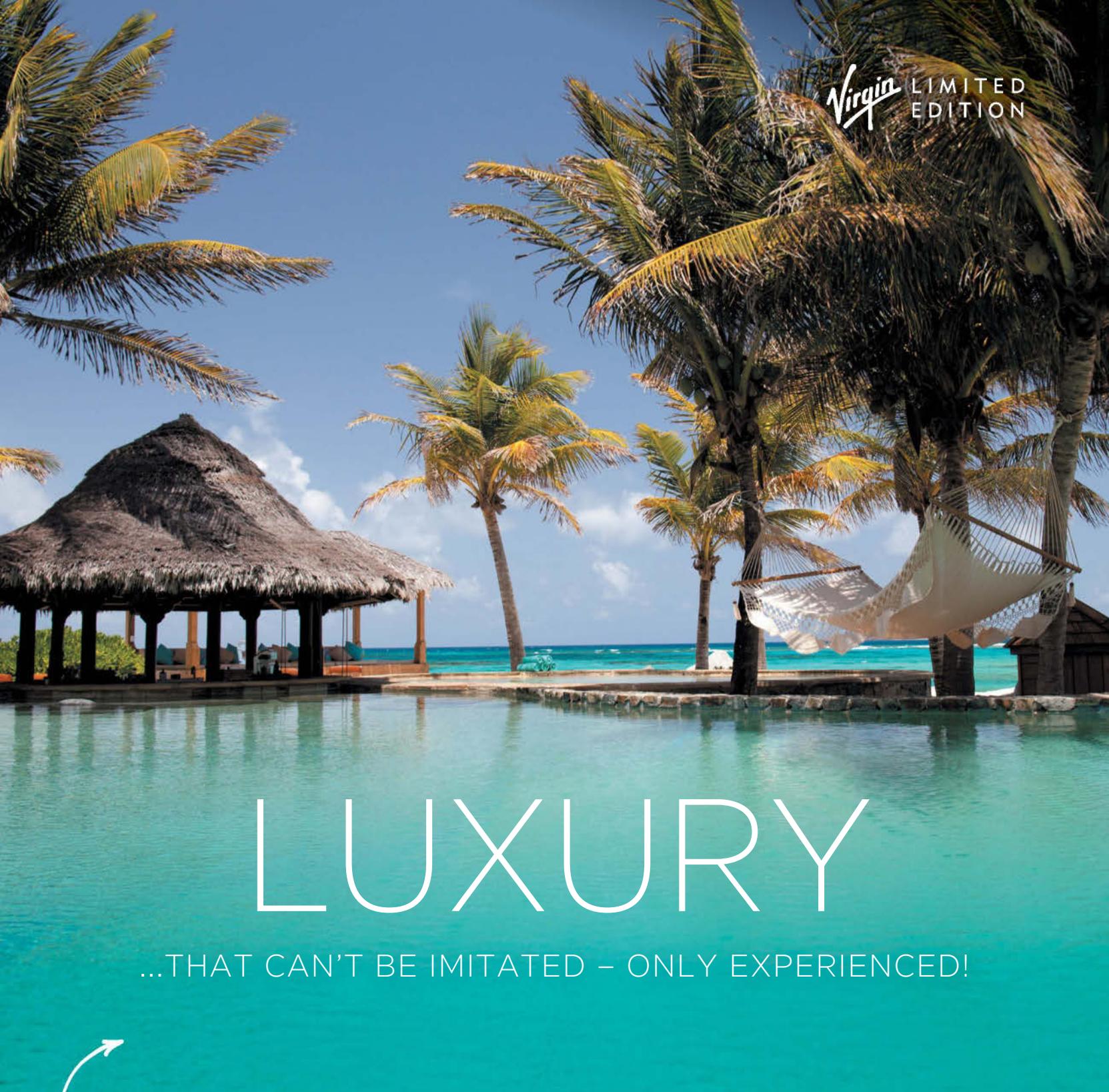
Two large festivals in Austria are dedicated to Jazz—one in Vienna, the other in Saalfelden. Linz has left behind its image as an industrial steel town and is now a colourfully illuminated cultural centre, as evidenced by the Klangwolke Festival. This open-air festival produces modern music with fascinating sound, light and visual effects. Other productions bridge between traditional and contemporary music. For example, the Carinthian Summer in Carinthia and the Danube Festival in Krems are an exciting blend of innovative dance, plays and music that amazes—and inspires. It's far removed from the musical mainstream. Just as in the Gmunden Festival Weeks and at the "Glatt und Verkehrt" (Smooth and Backwards) Festival in the Wachau. The latter refers to an original style of music that melds innovative patterns amid perhaps the most beautiful riverscape in Europe.

In dance, there are no limits to creativity and openness. Impulstanz in Vienna is Europe's largest festival for modern dance. Its spell draws artists from all over the world and turns Vienna into a global meeting point of cultures, or better put, into a massive dance stage. The Innsbruck Tanzsommer is a global playground for avantgarde choreographers and dancers. Impressive.

Austrians would simply say: Life is a celebration.

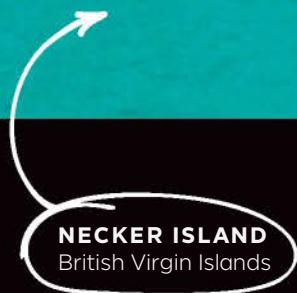


For more details on Austria's cultural highlights and heritage please browse the **Austria Culture Magazine enclosed** in this issue, or visit [www.austria.info/culture](http://www.austria.info/culture) for the best deals for a culture trip to Austria.



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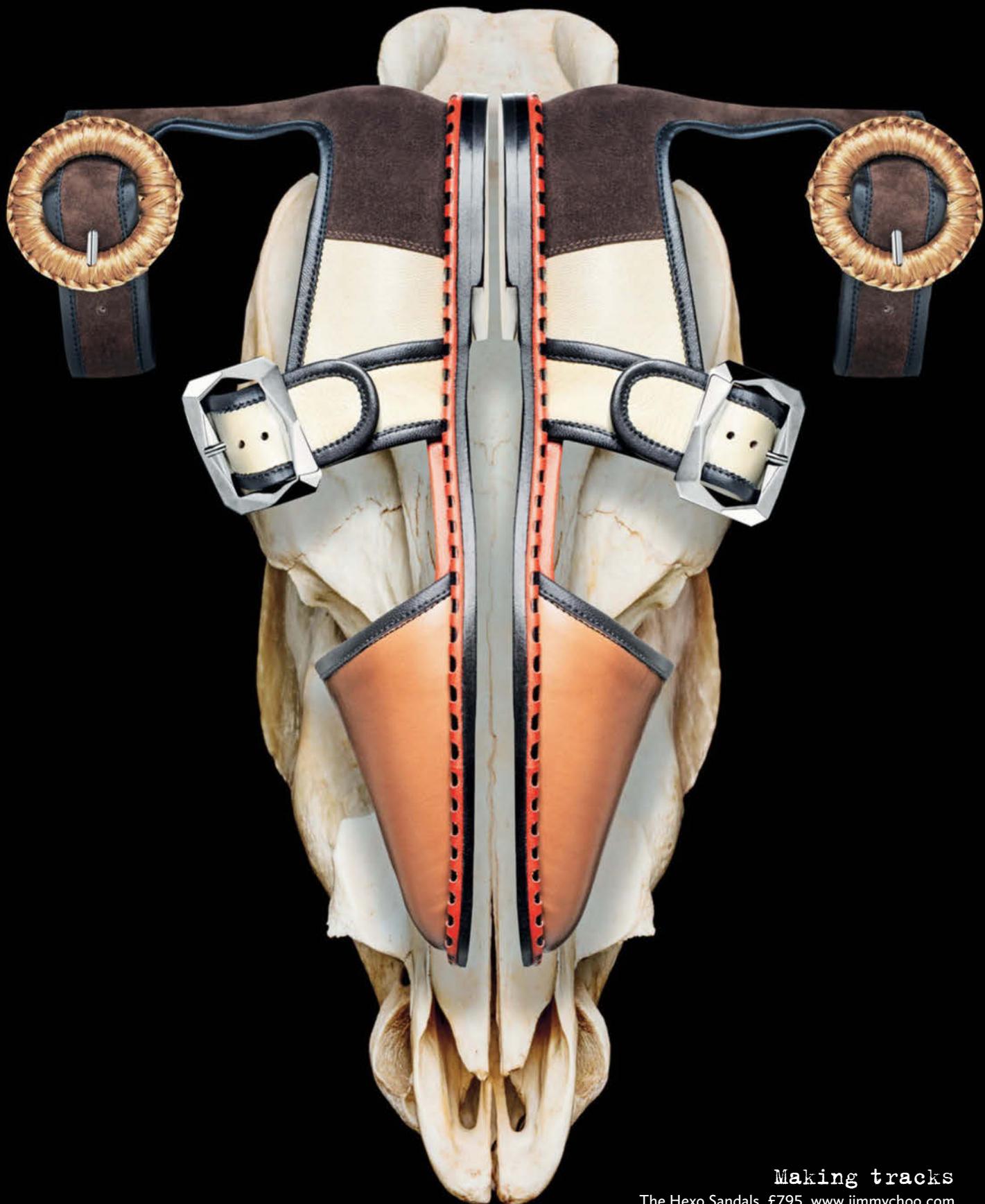
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# STYLE FILE

PLUS Jewellery Men's & On the scene

EDITED BY FIONA LINTOTT



PHOTOGRAPH: SUDHIR PITHWA; SHUTTERSTOCK, RETOUCHING: JAKE TURNER

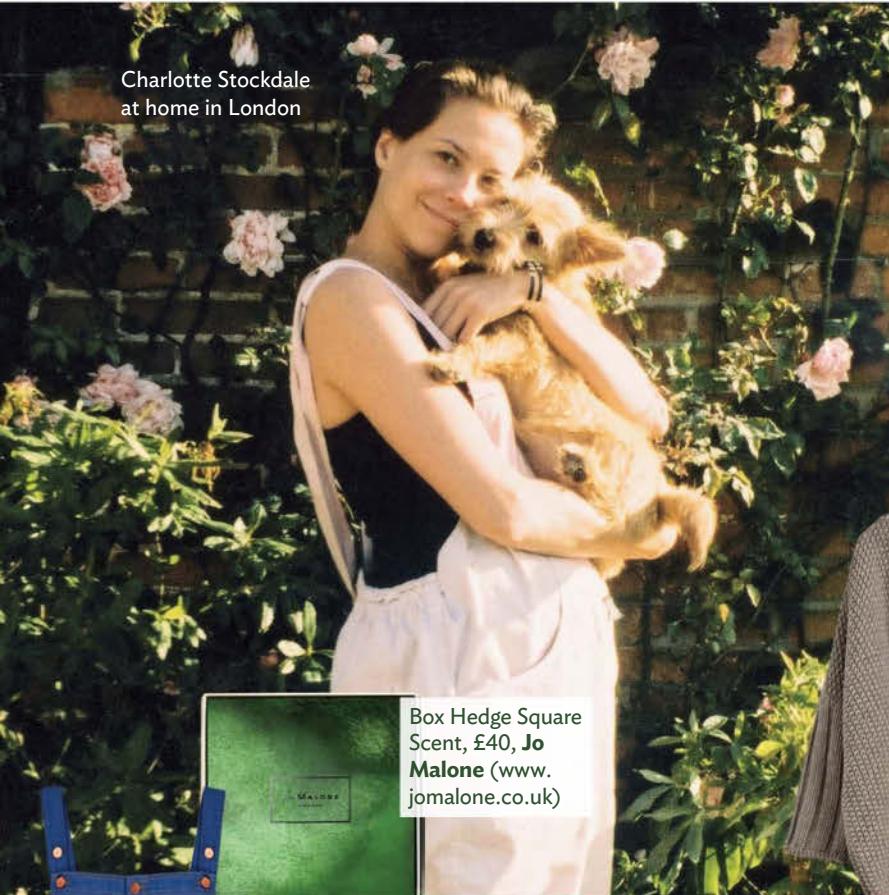
Making tracks

The Hexo Sandals, £795, [www.jimmychoo.com](http://www.jimmychoo.com)

## POSTCARDS FROM... Charlotte Stockdale

The stylist has been behind campaigns for Fendi, Lanvin and Dolce & Gabbana, is the fashion director of Dasha Zhukova's *Garage* magazine and wife of industrial designer Marc Newson. She shares the sights and smells that led to her new travel-inspired fragrance collection, My Wanderlust, for Jo Malone

Charlotte Stockdale  
at home in London



Box Hedge Square  
Scent, £40, Jo  
Malone ([www.jomalone.co.uk](http://www.jomalone.co.uk))



Cashmere  
jumper, £550,  
**Bamford** ([www.bamford.co.uk](http://www.bamford.co.uk))

### BRITAIN

#### TOP COUNTRY GARDENS

'There are so many that I love. Burghley House in Lincolnshire is a beautiful place, a 16th-century building within parkland laid out by Capability Brown. Haddon Hall in Derbyshire is an amazing Tudor building and Sccone Palace, top right, is very special. I adore Lady Lennox-Boyd's garden at Gresgarth Hall; it's magical, with a design inspired by the zodiac and an incredible kitchen garden.'

#### FAVOURITE FLORIST

'Scarlet and Violet in North London. I like flowers that look like they've just been picked and put together with a not-too-perfect hand. It's how my grandmother arranged her flowers.'



Denim dungarees,  
£265, **MIH Jeans**  
exclusively for  
[www.net-a-porter.com](http://www.net-a-porter.com)

#### OUT-OF-TOWN PADS

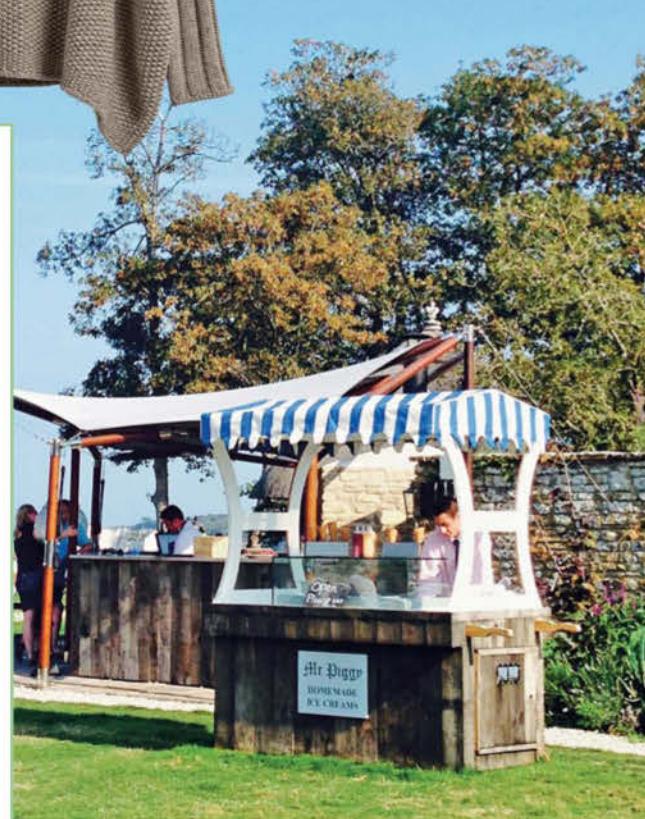
'My husband and I don't often go to hotels in the UK as we normally stay with friends when we leave London. Although I do love the new Pig on the Beach in Studland Bay, right. It's perfect for a weekend of peace, with views over the coastline. I also spent time at Babington House just before my first baby was born; it is incredibly relaxing.'

#### WEEKEND WARDROBE

'I'm usually very casual in the country, mainly in jeans and either T-shirts or sweaters, depending on the weather.'

#### SCENTS OF PLACE

'I love the comforting familiarity of the Box Hedge Square Scent I have created – a bit of England wherever I go. I used to always travel with a candle but I once got into trouble as it set off a hotel fire alarm at 3am. They weren't very pleased with me! This is a safer option.'



## CARIBBEAN

**ISLAND HOTSPOTS** 'In Barbados I love Fisherpond, an old plantation house where they do a perfect Sunday lunch, and the Round House at Bathsheba on the rugged east coast. Eat mahi-mahi and watch the crazy surfers. In Heron Bay we go to Ju Ju's Beach Bar, next to the Fairmont Royal Pavilion, for an evening drink. At St Elmo's Bar in Moontown there is karaoke at the weekends and Cobblers Cove, below left, is an old-school place to sip a Planter's Punch.'

**DESIGNER DIGS** 'We ran off to Mustique for New Year's Eve one year. We went to Basil's Bar, *the view from far left*, and hung out at Macaroni Beach – all the classics. The following evening we had an eat-on-your-lap film night with Tom Ford and Richard Buckley at their house.'

**BEACH READS** 'I always bring some science fantasy or science fiction, it's my favourite thing. Apart from that, the authors I love are Austen, Dickens and Hugo, so I'll pack something by them too.'

**SCENTS OF PLACE** 'I stay with my friend Alice Bamford in Heron Bay, Barbados. It's very relaxed, although there's a bit of glamour too. You wouldn't know whether you'd be having supper on the veranda or at a candle-strewn table on the beach. It always reminds me of Lime Basil and Mandarin (the first Jo Malone scent I experienced): zesty lime on a warm breeze as the day ends.'

Gold Iconic necklace, £560, **Lanvin** ([www.matchesfashion.com](http://www.matchesfashion.com))

Sunglasses, £330, **Tom Ford** ([www.tomford.com](http://www.tomford.com))

The new Lime Basil and Mandarin Scent Surround, £58, **Jo Malone** ([www.jomalone.co.uk](http://jomalone.co.uk))



Crochet swimsuit, £340, **Missoni** ([www.selfridges.com](http://www.selfridges.com))

## CORFU

### GREEK FLAVOURS

'My family has a house, above, in a small village called Gastouri, where I've stayed every summer since I was a child. It's set in six acres of olive groves; you can't see any other dwellings, only out to sea. When I was a child, the roads around it were dirt tracks and the only traffic on them was donkeys and mopeds. We still go to Corfu every year and some places have never changed. There's a café at the top of my road, it's completely simple: lamb chops, omelettes, retsina. It doesn't have a name, but it's at the junction as you drive into Gastouri and we call it the corner café. The priests sit there at night and play cards. Corfu Town is still authentically Venetian. I love to have a drink on the roof terrace of the Cavalieri Hotel; it has the

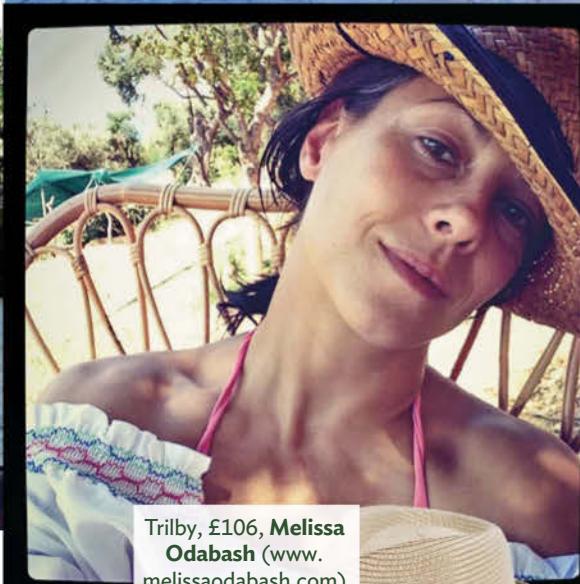
most fantastic views and cocktails. We eat at La Cucina, an Italian restaurant, and for a romantic night out, I love the Venetian Well, top right. The food is far less fancy but the setting is beautiful. And Paxinos in Benitses is very good.'

**HOLIDAY NOSTALGIA** 'In the late 1970s the Bora Bora nightclub opened, then in the 1980s more came along. My mother was best friends with a lady called Lisa from California who married a Greek: they were the glamour couple of the island. Before we went out we'd all meet wearing colourful little suits with shoulder pads and mini-skirts, and slap on the make-up, even though it was so hot it ended up melting down our faces.'



**SCENTS OF PLACE** 'The aroma of night jasmine fills the air as it's grown in pots and on balconies everywhere here. Together with the wild oregano that covers the hills, it completely sums up Corfu for me.'

*'My Wanderlust by Charlotte Stockdale'* for Jo Malone launches this month. The limited-edition line also includes a Cardamom and Moroccan Rose Home Candle, £42, and Acacia and Honey Bath Soap, £28



Trilby, £106, **Melissa Odabash** ([www.melissaodabash.com](http://www.melissaodabash.com))



Linen kaftan, £155, **Lemlem** ([www.beachcafe.com](http://www.beachcafe.com)). Night Jasmine and Oregano Linen Spray and Travel Bag, £42, **Jo Malone** ([www.jomalone.co.uk](http://www.jomalone.co.uk))



*The mighty Rajaraja Cholan, after extending his empire to the shores of south-east Asia, sheathed his sword and constructed the great Brihadeeswara Temple at Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu, India).*

*An architectural miracle, the temple's 'Kalasha' (dome) never casts a shadow on the ground!*



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Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu



## INTO THE WOODS

Flora and fauna usually spotted in the forest are rich pickings this season as the latest crop of jewels reflect nature at its most fit for foraging, says Jessica Diamond

**Mythology Acorn Bell Amulet in yellow gold and diamond, £1,900, Annoushka ([www.annoushka-jewellery.com](http://www.annoushka-jewellery.com))**



**Magnipheasant Plumage earrings in white gold, fire opal, ruby and yellow sapphire, £35,000, Stephen Webster ([www.stephen-webster.com](http://www.stephen-webster.com))**



**Blackberry charm in yellow gold and enamel from the Woodland Collection, £2,900, Asprey ([www.asprey.com](http://www.asprey.com))**

Jewellers have a tendency, when gathering inspiration, to get a little sentimental. Certainly, houses that produce fine or high jewellery are not averse to adding a fairytale element to their offerings. Not that fantastical isn't a great theme, but a childish sprinkling of fairy dust, where gardens become enchanted, and figurines sprout wings and wands and pirouette away into some magical kingdom, is all too common. Thankfully, not every house is like this. And a recent clutch of woodland-influenced jewellery is brilliantly devoid of any mystical narrative. With his Magnipheasant Collection, Stephen Webster draws inspiration from this most British game bird. 'Usually you see pheasants as road kill at the side of the A2,' says Webster in his characteristically matter-of-fact way, 'but they're actually really beautiful, exotic-looking birds.' He visited his lapidary in Germany and experimented with every gemstone colour he could get his hands on, in the end using an abundance of fire opals, rubies and yellow sapphires to mimic the iridescence of the feathers. He stuck to marquise-cut stones to replicate the shape and movement of the plumage, with the final touch of setting the collection in blackened gold adding a graphic sharpness to the outlines.

German jeweller Hemmerle has also gone down the woodland path, imbuing the pieces with a deft hyper-reality so often lacking in fine jewellery.

Cobnuts, acorns and gnarly conkers are rendered in a mixture of unexpected materials – obsidian, bronze and copper – which all express nature's imperfections; a curling, slightly torn leaf, a bruised conker shell and a split nut case are treated with a reverence that would usually be reserved for the unblemished form. Asprey has gone for a cuter expression of the theme, but still remains firmly on the right side of twee. Plump enamel blackberries, diamond-set mushrooms, pine cones and glossy conkers are designed to dangle from a charm bracelet, and are a perfect expression

of Britishness for this

luxury heritage brand. And if this tableau is lacking some beasties, then look no further than Boucheron: gem-set squirrels and owls and solid-gold hedgehogs are creatures to covet this season.

**Noctua pendant in white gold, diamond, amethyst and sapphire, £16,500, Boucheron ([www.boucheron.com](http://www.boucheron.com))**



**Chestnut brooch in diamond, obsidian, gold, silver and bronze, POA, Hemmerle ([www.hemmerle.com](http://www.hemmerle.com))**



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## STYLE FILE

EDITED BY  
DAVID ANNAND



## MAN ON A MISSION

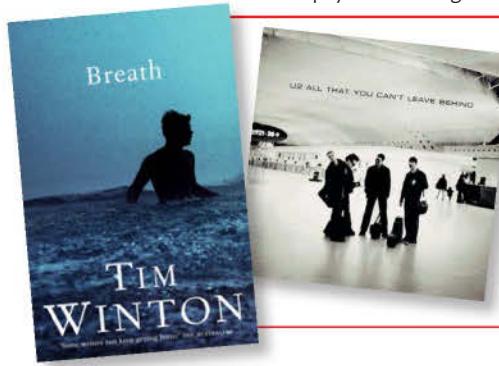
The most stylish fashion designer in Naples, Luca Rubinacci, seeks out the perfect kitesurfing spot

**S**ardinia is the first port of call on my month-long, European-wide search for the perfect kitesurfing conditions. I drive my Land Rover down from Milan, and off the ferry head south: Porto Botte, Porto Trettu and the capital Cagliari – Sardinia's three best places to kite. It's very different from the north; the atmosphere is wild, with empty sandy beaches and forest. The wind blows at 18 to 20 knots every day, which is good. Anything over 30 knots and you're battling with it, not having fun. And the water is flat, just what you want. It's perfect for tricks. I like to surf wake-style, without being hooked to the kite – it requires more from the surfer, more strength, but it means you have all the power in your hands. And it's perfect for doing a trick called the raley, where you kick the board back over your head and fly through the air like Superman, which is insanely good fun and looks amazing in photos.

But I also like to go old-school, with high jumps that are more about aesthetics than power, so from Sardinia I head across the continent to Galicia, in northern Spain. My girlfriend is from Vigo and she introduces me to Pontevedra, 25 minutes outside the city. The sea is cold, crystalline; the sand is white.

From here, I head south into Portugal to the famous Praia do Guincho, renowned for its waves. I am not disappointed. The wind is blowing onshore at 24 knots, creating 1.5-metre waves in the shallow water. I keep my

kite but I change from a regular board to a surfboard and ride the waves, up and down, faster and faster. The adrenalin pumps, but I know there is another challenge that awaits me. So I drive 1,000km south to Tarifa, Spain's most southerly point and the epicentre of European kitesurfing. Here the famous Levant blows at 30 to 50 knots. Over 40 knots, you can't even go to the beach. On the days when it's too strong I take a great insider tip and follow the locals to Los Caños de Meca, a beautiful secret beach up the coast, but most days I head to Valdevaqueros. Even at 30 knots, the sand is being picked up from the beach and the water is choppy – not great for sunbathing but perfect for kiting. In these conditions you can jump 15 metres in the air, covering a distance of 50 metres. If you don't land well, you know about it. The adrenalin stops me feeling anything in the moment, but by the last day I can't walk: my big toe's busted from too many jumps. A small price to pay for catching the wind.

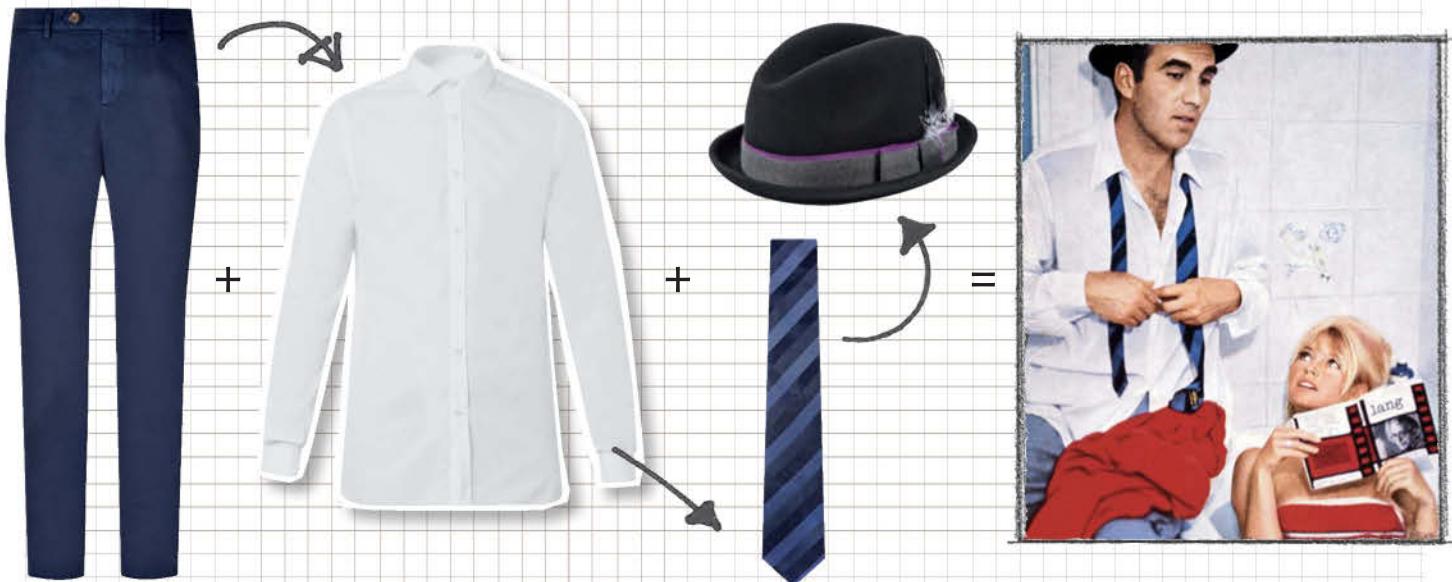


**READ THIS** *Breath*. Australian author Tim Winton's account of adolescents escaping the reality of life in a humdrum 1970s town captures the exhilaration of catching a wave without resorting to dewy-eyed surfing mysticism.

**DOWNLOAD THIS** 'Kite'. U2's paean to the possibility of escape is perfect for those who know that the key to kitesurfing is hopping on the board and asking: 'Who's to say where the wind will take you?'

# GET THE LOOK: LE MEPRIS

We can't guarantee Bardot in the bath, but make like Michel Piccoli and you'll look cool in Capri



From left: gabardine chinos, £439, **Brunello Cucinelli** ([www.harrods.com](http://www.harrods.com)); Halesforth cotton shirt, £195, **Burberry London** ([www.matchesfashion.com](http://www.matchesfashion.com)); silk tie, £90, **Yves Saint Laurent** ([www.selfridges.com](http://www.selfridges.com)); black felt trilby, £95, **Christys'** for Paul Smith ([www.paulsmith.co.uk](http://www.paulsmith.co.uk))



## DAVID'S POSTCARD FROM... THE HATTON TRAIN, SRI LANKA

I'm standing on one of the carriage's steps, leaning forward, holding on to two chrome bars on either side of the open door. The pace of the train is gentle, but fast enough for the wind to tousle my hair. It's as close to a 'king of the world' moment as I have ever got, but I'm more downbeat and more contemplative than Leonardo was on the prow of the *Titanic*. That said, I am to be spared the tragic end, and below me the dense vegetation looks like it would break my fall were I to tumble the 100-odd feet down the hillside.

That it's so lush is not surprising, as I'm on the Hatton train out of Kandy, famously one of the most scenic routes in the world, as it cleaves through the tea plantations that were carved into the high Sri Lankan hills to take advantage of the region's abundant rain.

Mercifully, however, the rain – torrential the night before, biblically so, such that the grass crawled with leeches – has abated, allowing me to hang, moderately safely, from the side of the train. No one tells me not to. A guard appears. Miraculously, to an Englishman, he checks my ticket and saunters on without directing me to the safety notices or illustrating how to adopt the brace position should my grip be loosened.

We trundle on, uphill. Adam's Peak, site of the Sri Pada, the footprint of the Buddha, is visible in the distance. We cross a bridge and I lean forwards, looking down. No one intervenes or censures. It's just not that kind of train. There are no recorded messages beseeching vigilance. No signs alerting me to the danger of hot drinks. Nothing to infantilise or restrict. We round the corner and the sky opens up, the green hills sharp against the brilliant blue. I could fall, but I don't. And this, I understand suddenly, is freedom, the point of it all, our only destination.



# STYLE FILE

EDITED BY THEA DARRICOTTE



Cheetah sweater, £110, Etre Cecile ([www.etrececile.com](http://www.etrececile.com))



SoundSport noise-cancelling headphones, £129.95, Bose ([www.bose.co.uk](http://www.bose.co.uk)). Fifty Fathoms watch, POA, Blancpain ([www.blancpain.com](http://www.blancpain.com))



Dunes mesh-trimmed bikini top, £175, and briefs, £105, La Perla ([www.net-a-porter.com](http://www.net-a-porter.com))



Striped silk scarf, £250, Loewe ([www.loewe.com](http://www.loewe.com)). Polarised sunglasses, £108, Ray-Ban ([www.sunglasses-shop.co.uk](http://www.sunglasses-shop.co.uk))



## On the scene: Four Seasons Sydney

The look: Urban tech

No one comes to Sydney to stay indoors. Which is why this hotel in The Rocks is so perfectly located, within walking distance of the Royal Botanic Gardens and with the Circular Quay ferry port right there so you can hop over to Manly Beach or Taronga Zoo. Everything runs like clockwork. Go for a morning jog (helping yourself to sunscreen at the exit) and you'll be met afterwards with water and a towel. Staff will fetch your caffeine fix from the neighbouring Mecca Espresso, a crucial detail in this coffee-loving city. And the concierge can recommend everything from yoga classes at Icebergs on Bondi to the best surf instructor around. There's a pool big enough for laps, where chefs stoke up the barbecue every afternoon, and a spa specialising in jet-lag treatments. At night, swap your sports kit for a Sass & Bide silk top and skinny jeans and join the locals downstairs at Grain bar for El Cooler (a cocktail of kiwi fruit shaken with tequila and apple). Back in your room – all soothing creamy tones, tightly tucked sheets and piles of pillows – the views of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge are so stupendous you'll never want to draw your curtains. And with shops including Aesop skincare, Helen Kaminski hats and Dion Lee fashion nearby, this is one of the most stylish spots in the city. EMMA LOVE



Bracelets with white diamonds, from £1,098, Tamara Comolli ([www.tamaracomolli.com](http://www.tamaracomolli.com)). Shoe, £475, Balenciaga ([www.matchesfashion.com](http://www.matchesfashion.com)). Catwalk image from Fendi Resort



PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF FENDI; LAURYN ISHAK/CORBIS

ORANGERIE  
LUNA PIENA  
PENDANT  
& ANCHOR  
CHAIN:  
£683



ORANGERIE  
DIVA BANGLE:  
£863



ORANGERIE DIVA MANCHETTE:  
£863

## *artfully* ADORNED

Taking inspiration from Claude Monet's iconic impressionist works, Freyville's latest precious fire enamel jewellery pieces are true objets d'art



ORANGERIE DIVA RING:  
£362



HONFLEUR MANCHETTE:  
£863



HONFLEUR DIVA BANGLE:  
£863

The exceptional golden light of southern Provence, dappled waters of the Seine below Paris's Pont des Arts, and the verdant rolling hills and vineyards of the Loire valley, France has always held exceptional intrigue for the artistic elite.

Arguably the country's most revered impressionistic master, Monet's latter day inspiration was born out of his love for the northern region of Normandy. Here the sublime natural light, picturesque ports and rich natural landscape created the backdrop to many of his most celebrated works. Exquisite fine jewellery house Freyville pays artistic tribute to the French master's most seminal paintings in its brand new collection "Hommage à Claude Monet". The Austrian luxury jewellery label's name is synonymous with vivid-hued, highly ornate fire enamel pieces set in 24 or 18 karat gold mountings. These are standout pieces you'll covet

for a lifetime. The new collection of pendants and bangles is split into three designs; Giverny, Honfleur and Orangerie. Giverny, named after the village north west of Paris, where Monet had a home and painted his revered water lily collection, features soft brush stroke style florals. Honfleur is a bolder design showcasing more elaborate flowers contoured by striking gold panels. These pieces take their name from lower Normandy's harbour coastal town with its slate fronted houses and exceptional purity of natural light.

Finally, Orangerie features Freyville's interpretation of the world-venerated water lily collection. Romantic, intricate and typified by its kaleidoscopic use of colour, these pieces highlight the label's exceptional attention to detail.

### INTRICATE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Founded in Vienna in 1951, Freyville is so committed to producing the finest, originally researched, art history inspired jewellery that the genesis of any new collection spans two years from initial drawings to launch. Each handcrafted ring, pendant or earring goes through 80-100 processes of grounding, applying, cleaning and firing to achieve the beautiful and distinctive, bright liquid glass finish.

Today the label's team of in-house artists, designers, goldsmiths and experts in fine enameling still create all the pieces at the original production house in Vienna. The unique enamelling process was the brainchild of Simone Grünberger-Wille, a young designer in the 1980's now married to Freyville CEO Friedrich Wille. The intricate process of burning enamel in several layers to precise mixing proportions is the cornerstone of the brand. Much like Monet; Freyville remains exalted in fine jewellery circles as a true master of its art.

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# TRENDWATCH



PHOTOGRAPH: HEIDI & HANS-JURGEN KOCH

## REWILDLING

Once they roamed free across North America, then one day they didn't, leaving just the deer and the antelope to play. Recently, though, the Great Plains tribes signed a treaty to reintroduce the buffalo to ancestral lands. The species was nearly wiped out in the 19th century, when railroad companies sold tickets so tourists could take prairie potshots from their carriages – not only unsporting but also unwilding. Now, of course, rewilding is the thing. There are projects all over the world, from oryx in the Arabian Peninsula to brown bears in Italy (in Britain, a proposal by MFI heir Paul Lister to reintroduce wolves to the Scottish Highlands continues to raise hackles). The reasoning is clear: plant the right trees and red squirrels will return; bring back the lynx, tear down the fences, and pesky, sapling-chomping red deer will be controlled, ecosystems and economies re-seeded. This May, a project funded by Rewilding Europe will see a herd of European bison – rarer than the black rhino – released from enclosures in Romania's Tarcu Mountains, pawing the ground, moving as slowly and warily as prize fighters. It will be a sight not seen since 1790. This time, though, instead of being shot, they can be tracked on safari. RICK JORDAN

# LITTLE FLU

A CRAZY JUMBLE OF ISLANDS IN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST OCEAN, THE SOUTH  
BUILD THUNDERBIRDS HIDEAWAYS. FROM FIJI'S CORAL FORESTS TO THE



# FELY CLOUDS

PACIFIC IS WHERE PRINCE PHILIP IS IDOLISED AS A GOD AND BILLIONAIRES VOLCANOES OF TAHITI. HERE ARE THE CLEVEREST SHORES TO WASH UP ON





# THE BRANDO, FRENCH POLYNESIA

ANTONIA QUIRKE AT THE HOTEL WITH THE MOST DRAWN-OUT OPENING EVER - MARLON'S DREAM PAD

To the remote South Pacific, some 50km from Tahiti, and a small, private atoll. Contained inside a living coral reef, a dozen white-sanded islets surround an eight-kilometre lagoon so shallow its blue can be seen from space. Marlon Brando first clapped eyes on Tetiaroa when scouting for locations for *Mutiny on the Bounty* in 1960 and couldn't shake the sight. There are humpback whales outside the atoll, while inside the temperate lagoon acts as a nursery for 700 species of pretty fish. Coral gardens stretch into abyssal depths. Giant clams with mouths full of an algae that comes on in a trippy neon. Rare orchids surround freshwater pools.

How he coveted it. To own such a place. A boy from Nebraska! For years the actor negotiated with its owner – the blind, elderly daughter of an American dentist who had been bequeathed the atoll by Polynesian royalty and was ensconced there with 40 cats and dogs. She caved in at \$250,000 and an apple pie, and for the rest of Brando's life his relationship with his new home (moving between here and LA) was complicated.

As a character, Brando was whimsical and elusive, commitment-phobic and teasing. Always doggedly resistant to convention, the idea of living in undomesticated solitude appealed to him. But as one of life's mimics and talkers, so did the thought of having people to stay. He set up a hotel here in the 1970s but it was haphazard: guests trembled at the plumbing.

Which is not something anyone has to worry about now. Recently opened after six years of difficult construction, The Brando is a supremely polished hideaway on one of the atoll's larger islets, with two restaurants and bars, a spa, 35 glass-and-iron-wood villas, and an airstrip for an eight-seater plane, set back from a blindingly white beach. Brando stipulated he didn't want the landscape-altering overwater bungalows characteristic of most Polynesian hotels. But up until his death in 2004, he procrastinated.

'He talked about a lot of things,' says Richard Bailey, the hotelier who negotiated with Brando for a decade and was eventually chosen by his estate to construct the property. 'Being able to walk around the island on sand and not see people, 100-per-cent renewable energy, all of which we have, but with Marlon,' he sighs, 'you never knew if he was joking or serious half the time because even he didn't know. He had problems with women, and problems with business partners, and if you have a basic problem with trust, like Marlon did, I guess you love people and things in different ways...' Bailey loses his thread. The sound of the Pacific bashing against the distant reef thickens the morning. It's as lulling as Tetiaroa's indecisive dawns, that filter through red and grey into a lambent blue.

I wonder what Brando would have made of The Brando. He once said he admired the fact that Eskimos had no word for garbage since they made use of everything, and often repeated that he wanted Tetiaroa to remain as wild as possible. But what does wild mean? If Tetiaroa was uninhabited, it

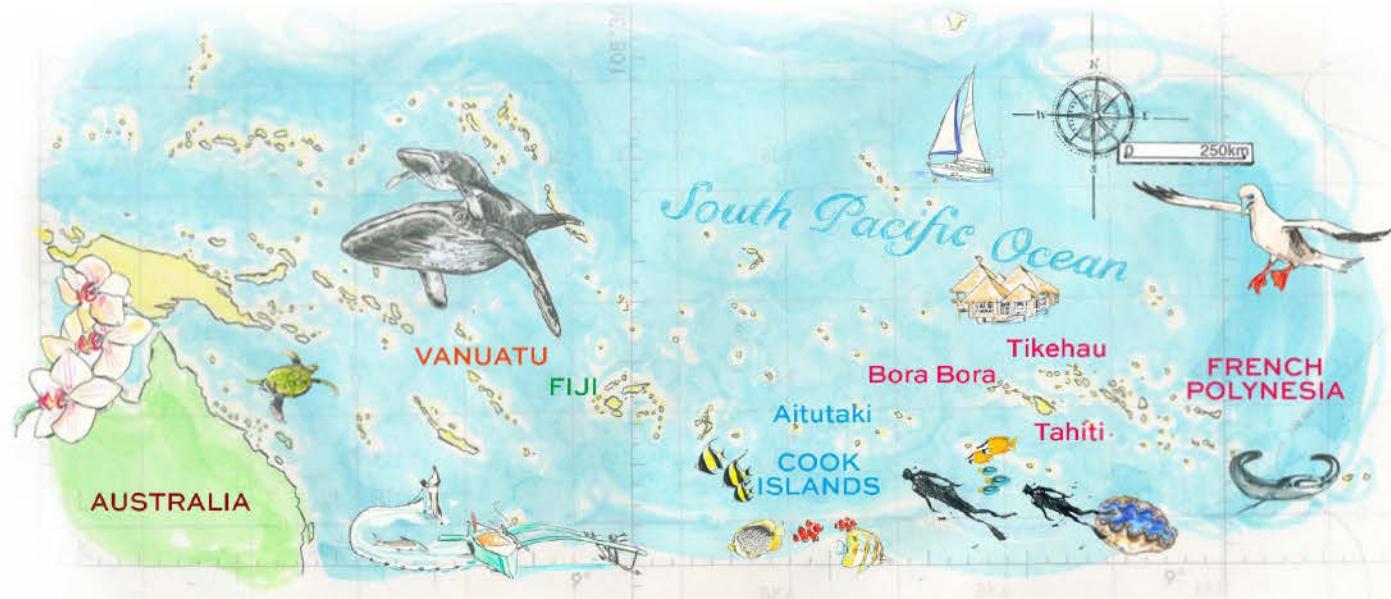
would be covered in plastic – at least a ton washes up on its shores every year. If it was wild, all the edible fish and green turtles would continue to be poached from the lagoon, as they have been almost to extinction.

Brando's son Teihotu (whose mother, Brando's third wife Tarita Teri'ipiaia, starred in *Mutiny on the Bounty*) was caretaker of the atoll but he alone could not stop the poaching. I meet him one day outside his fall-down wooden house, standing Polynesianishly tall in nothing but a pair of shorts, with three times the quantity of his father's uprush of *Last Tango* hair and the same strength-carrying curve where the jawbone meets the neck. He has precisely the same folds over the eyes, as though something powerful has touched him. As a child (he's now 51), Teihotu recalls seeing 'schools of hundred-pound giant trevally swimming by my legs. So many that at times I would stand frozen with my fishing pole in hand, not daring to move'.

The restocking of the lagoon by The Brando's scientists will take a while. In the meantime the hotel ought to remain as small as it is: elegant, low-impact, 82 guests maximum plus staff on one islet, leaving the rest of the atoll untouched. A seawater-cooling system powers the air-conditioning (one of Brando's more realisable suggestions) and academics-in-residence suck pencils over an archipelago of eco-studies in huts near the airstrip. This feels appropriate. There was little Brando loved more than books. Information. Stories. Like the one about how the chieftain caste came to Tetiaroa to prettify their daughters for marriage, hiding them from the tanning sun, feeding them giant sea snails and sweet-potato paste, and rubbing their moon-paled skins with turmeric and mono'i oil. Their coral-stone temples are long gone and yet a mysterious mood remains. There are other desert islands, sure, but perhaps none so flukishly gorgeous, or with such a flaring light, which sometimes hits its waters as though this were an ocean of milk.

One morning I go out in a boat to an islet on whose shores adolescent male manta rays lurk, like at a northern bus stop. 'Where are all the boys?' the boatman calls. 'No boys today?' And then – here they come, like little blankets, lounging shyly through the water to stroke our ankles. Later that evening, the mother of all storms hits and there is nothing again but the sound of rain on skin and sand as I coax my bike up the beach, thinking of the letter Brando once wrote to a friend after travelling abroad the first few times. The boy from Nebraska. 'Oh God Ellen, I've seen some wonder now and I'm going to see more. Ellen, honey, try to arrange to see some too, before it's too late. The world is swelling with a dreadful effort to standardise so fast. Very shortly it will all be gone.'

**NUMBER OF VILLAS** 35 beach. **GETTING HERE** A 20-minute flight from Papeete, Tahiti. **BOOK IT** A one-bedroom villa costs from about £2,370 per night full-board ([www.thebrando.com](http://www.thebrando.com)). Air Tahiti Nui ([www.airtahitiniui.co.uk](http://www.airtahitiniui.co.uk)) flies from London to Papeete via Los Angeles





## LE TAHA'A ISLAND RESORT & SPA, FRENCH POLYNESIA FOR NATURE-LOVING FOODIES

Most Polynesian hotels focus on the eye-popping turquoise water, such a bright blue it's as if it were coloured with a neon highlighter pen. Le Taha'a has that side of things covered, with knock-out views across to the Bora Bora lagoon – better even than those from Bora Bora itself, where neighbouring hotels jut in all sides. It is cleverly positioned on a private *motu* (islet) off the island of Taha'a, just 10 minutes from Bora

Bora by helicopter, and has none of those overcrowding issues. But what strikes you most about this place is the trees. Lots of them. The resort was built into the *motu*'s existing vegetation, with not a single tree removed. This means the spa is hidden in bamboo groves, beach villas are tucked among giant pandanus trees and al-fresco Le Vanille restaurant is up in the palm-tops. New chef Julien Roux, whose past form includes

a stint with Joël Robuchon, oversees all three restaurants. From swordfish tartare to carbonara with cream of foie gras, his food sings (as you'd expect from a member of the Relais et Châteaux club). Other changes are also afoot: with the overwater bungalows recently spruced up, it's the

turn of the beach villas this year. But the pared-back Polynesian vibe will stay. Le Taha'a stands out for being locally owned among the shoal of international hotels in these waters. NUMBER OF VILLAS 45 overwater, 12 beach. GETTING HERE A 45-minute flight from Papeete to Ra'iatea then a 35-minute boat transfer. BOOK IT Turquoise Holidays ([www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk](http://www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk)) offers seven nights B&B in a Sunset Overwater Suite from £3,365 per person, including flights from London with Air New Zealand and Air Tahiti Nui

## THE ST REGIS RESORT BORA BORA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

FOR SECLUSION AND TOP-NOTCH SERVICE

In and out. In and out. At the St Regis, there is room to breathe. Spread over 17 hectares on a private motu off Bora Bora, the resort never feels crowded, even when it's booked solid, which it is for much of May to October. The roomier overwater bungalows are the envy of other Bora Bora hotels (several have private pools, which are not as common as you'd expect in these parts) and even the Miri Miri Spa by Clarins is marooned on its own island. In typical St Regis style, each room has a butler to take care of any whims (from opening blinds and pouring coffee in the morning to serving cocktails and canapés on the deck in the evenings). Lay by the Oasis Pool calling for Bora Marys (like their Bloody counterparts, but with a fresh twist of watermelon juice) from the in-cabana phone, snorkel in the lagoon and eat at each of the four restaurants, including Bora Bora's only sushi bar. But for a standout supper, go to Lagoon by Jean-George Vongerichten, which has dishes such as rice-cracker-crusted tuna and one of the best wine lists in the South Pacific. **NUMBER OF VILLAS** 77 overwater, 14 beach.

**GETTING HERE** A 50-minute flight from Papeete then a 20-minute boat transfer. **BOOK IT** Carrier ([www.carrier.co.uk](http://www.carrier.co.uk)) offers seven nights B&B in an overwater villa from £4,490 per person, including Air New Zealand flights from London and private boat transfers



## TIKEHAU PEARL BEACH RESORT, FRENCH POLYNESIA

FOR SCUBA-DIVING BEACH BUMS

They come to the far-flung atoll of Tikehau for the eco-glory of it all: rare pink-sand beaches, pure azure waters and a scuba-diving jackpot in the middle of what Jacques Cousteau described as one of the highest concentrations of fish on the planet. If you thought Tahiti was remote, the Tuamotus, 78 coral islets spread over an area the size of Western Europe in French Polynesia's far north-east, is *really* remote. Here the raw redux of the woven nikau, teak and coconut sanctuary somehow feels more authentic, and although not the most glossy of this mini-chain of Pearls (other bigger, swishier sibling hotels are found on Moorea and Bora Bora), it has a castaway charm of its own. And the fish! Stern-looking reef sharks.

Gently gliding manta rays. Stripy mohawked lionfish. Darting shoals in every colour. The Technicolor glory of it all. Back on the surface, join Bachou Raufau, a mischievous soul who speaks an impressive number of languages, in his boat and whizz past an abandoned pearl farm on stilts to Bird Island, jumping off at this not-even-a-spot-on-the-map motu for a Polynesian picnic with the red-footed booby and brown noddy birds. Or meander on bikes to Tuherahera village before a Monoï Maha Rima, Tahitian for a four-hands massage in the ancient Taurumi tradition. **NUMBER OF VILLAS** 24 overwater, 13 beach. **GETTING HERE** A 55-minute flight from Papeete then a 15-minute boat transfer. **BOOK IT** Scott Dunn ([www.scottdunn.com](http://www.scottdunn.com)) offers seven nights half-board in a beach bungalow from £3,025 per person, including flights from London and transfers

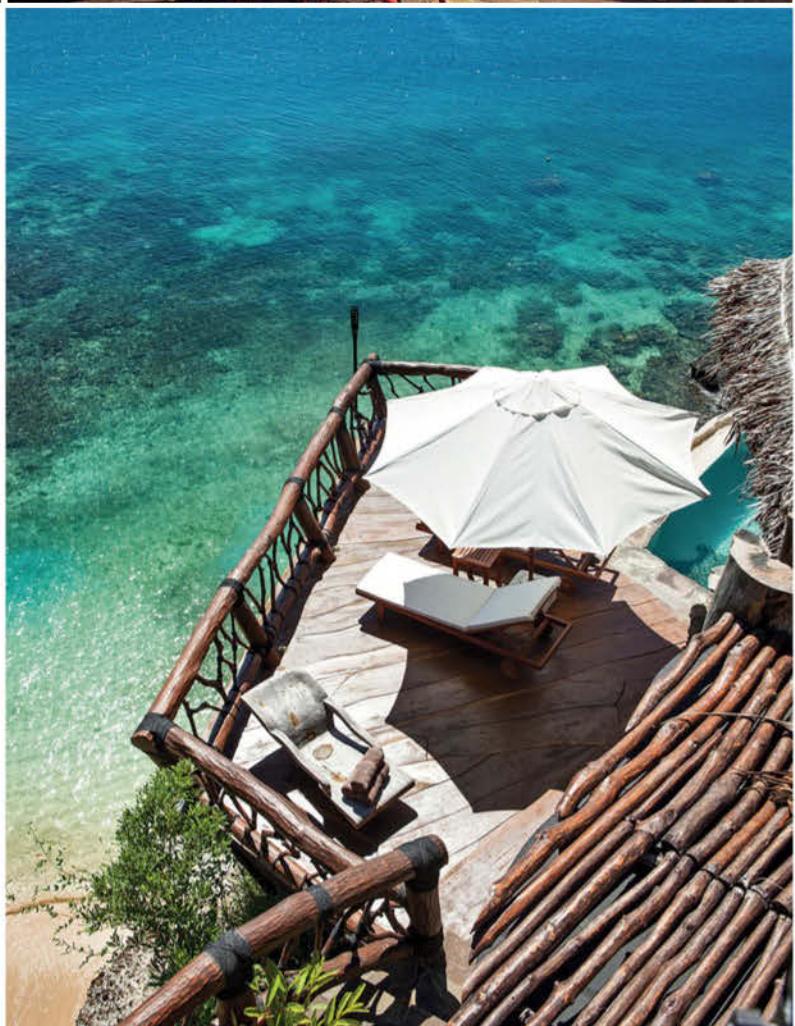




## LAUCALA ISLAND, FIJI

FOR DESIGNER DIGS WITH ALL THE FRILLS

This is the most indulgent private island in the world: geographically more interesting than David Copperfield's Masha Cay, infinitely more polished than Richard Branson's Necker Island and with much more to do than North Island. But then, it is owned by Red Bull billionaire Dietrich Mateschitz, who can afford to underwrite the 350 staff (four to every guest when it's full), the permanent golf pro on the 18-hole rainforest-fringed course, the eight glossy thoroughbreds to ride on soft white-sand beaches, and the brilliant young Australian chef Anthony Healy: master of sublime beef, charcoal-dust and tomato-foam tortellini. Because the island is so big, privacy is assured: across 1,400 hectares there are just 25 roomy wood-and-glass villas – the most impressive set dramatically over rocks – and several enormous pools, one with a glass front, another inset with palm-tree islets. And Mateschitz's dream of making the island self-sufficient is no superficial show of eco-consciousness. Spa therapists concoct their own unguents from just-picked coconuts and herbs. Healy organically farms all his animals, fruit and veg (including 10 kinds of tomatoes) to supply his eight-course degustation menus, and daily spear-fishing excursions provide fresh meat for sushi. This is the ultimate do-what-you-like haven: a place where you can sunbathe naked in complete privacy all day, have whatever food you like delivered whenever you like, or go activity-mad, relishing in the fact that, no matter what you do, the tab is all-inclusive. **NUMBER OF VILLAS** 25, including one overwater. **GETTING HERE** A one-hour flight from Nadi International Airport. **BOOK IT** Scott Dunn ([www.scottdunn.com](http://www.scottdunn.com)) offers seven nights full-board in a one-bedroom villa from £9,980 per person, including flights from London and private plane transfers





## DOLPHIN ISLAND, FIJI

FOR FAMILIES WHO WANT THEIR OWN SPACE

The remote Sun Coast of Viti Levu, Fiji's mainland, is the South Seas idyll, the real Fiji they say. Just across the water is Dolphin Island. Exclusive it may be, ensconcing visitors in a want-for-nothing private escape, but it still feels part of all that, a balancing act that is the trademark of owner Alex van Heeren (consistently lauded for his Huka Lodge in New Zealand). The five-hectare retreat can be hired for up to eight people, staying in thatched villas decked out in cool creams and greens with extravagant indoor-outdoor bathrooms and glass walls that slide back to let in the breeze.

Interior designer Virginia Fisher spent her early childhood in Fiji and her affinity shows in the effortless Pacific chic design. Island life is equally easygoing: kayaks and snorkelling gear on the beach, walking trails, loungers dotted around the simple landscaped gardens. All wrapped up in the warm, unfiltered Fijian hospitality. Housekeeper Dawn Simpson and her staff keep wine glasses filled and an endless feast of curries and seafood passing across the communal dining table. Her *kokoda*, Fijian ceviche, is worth making the trip for. NUMBER OF VILLAS Four. GETTING HERE A two-and-a-half-hour drive from Nadi airport then a 20-minute boat transfer. BOOK IT Mr & Mrs Smith ([www.mrandmrssmith.com](http://www.mrandmrssmith.com)) offers a Guest Bure Suite for £1,886 a night all-inclusive, including transfers from Nadi. The island can only be booked by one party at a time, with a minimum of two guests



## FOUR SEASONS RESORT BORA BORA, FRENCH POLYNESIA FOR LAGOON-LOUNGING LIZARDS

Located off the mainland, on Bora Bora's surrounding coral atoll, the Four Seasons tinkles with just-married laughter. Everywhere, French manicures set off new rings and couples lean dazedly against one another, eyes fixed on the lagoon ahead, remembering another unlikely day spent staring at manta rays through snorkel masks, only coming up for a hunk of fresh coconut to cut through the taste of salt water. Most will stay in one of the overwater bungalows with doors that peel back from the bedroom right onto the lagoon. There's that word again. Lagoon, lagoon, lagoon. It is, however much you try to stay immune, intrinsically romantic.

The brilliance of the Four Seasons is that the manicured canals along its various walkways – full of softly wafting needle- and parrotfish and overhung with ylang-ylang – feel more gorgeously *The Little Mermaid* than an artificial aquarium. Be sure to take one of the hotel's kayaks around the atoll. So many of its little *motus* are long-owned by locals, harvesting rainwater, using solar or wind power and fishing off their own stretch of beach: quiet, heartening models of life-loving self-sufficiency. The sand, water and light here, you will never forget. **NUMBER OF VILLAS** 100 overwater, 15 beach. **GETTING HERE** A 45-minute flight from Papeete then a 15-minute boat transfer. **BOOK IT** Turquoise Holidays ([www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk](http://www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk)) offers seven nights B&B in a Superior Beach View Overwater Bungalow from £4,185 per person, including flights from London with Air New Zealand and Air Tahiti Nui





## AITUTAKI LAGOON RESORT & SPA, COOK ISLANDS

FOR LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

A short hop north of Rarotonga, the Cook's gateway island, Aitutaki is a gloriously bright, quiet and soul-lifting beach escape. Chickens strut through the airport, tattooed hunks strum ukuleles and you can drive around the island in 20 minutes. There are no sights, but you could try to spot one of its three policemen. Oh, and then there's 'The World's Most Beautiful Lagoon', where in the 1950s the flying boats of Tasman Empire Airways would make a stop along the Coral Route. The hype is justified. Pale-cream sands and glossy palms frame a triangle of water pulsating with show-off fish and purple corals as big as bandstands. It is an immaculate spot to dive and snorkel. And the Aitutaki Lagoon Resort is the only five-star place to stay right beside these fantasy waters. The standard of service and food doesn't match the finest hotels in, say, French Polynesia or Fiji: here location is all. And at night, when you look up at the bountiful stars and hear the fish splashing in the placid lagoon, there will be no regrets about the effort of travelling halfway across the earth to end up at Aitutaki.

**NUMBER OF VILLAS** 12 overwater, 24 beach. **GETTING HERE** A 45-minute flight from Rarotonga then a two-minute ferry ride. **BOOK IT** Doubles from about £285 per night; [www.aitutakilagoonresort.com](http://www.aitutakilagoonresort.com)



## THE WAKAYA CLUB & SPA, FIJI

FOR A-LIST INDULGENCE

With 900 hectares of forest, beaches, cliffs and lagoons, and just 11 villas, Wakaya is unsurprisingly popular with high-profile privacy seekers (celebrities, European princes, Bill Gates – they all honeymoon here). The island is owned by Fiji Water's David Gilmour who, inspired by his opera-singer mother drinking ginger tea for her voice, has now turned his hand to marketing Wakaya Perfection ginger. It infuses everything here: from the ginger-mint lemonade on arrival to a mango-and-ginger wrap in the spa, and even adds a kick to the endless supply of oatmeal-and-raisin cookies in the 10 *bures* along the shore. This is an every-wish-is-your-command retreat for the pickiest castaways: special menus are created for dietary requirements, gluten-free bread is baked each morning.

If it's space you demand, the three-bedroom Vale'O has its own 16-acre hilltop estate. But this isn't the type of place that flashes flown-in fois gras and wagyu beef; the Gilmours are passionate about sustainability and much of the food – venison, pork, tuna, lobster – is produced on the island or caught in the Koro Sea. **NUMBER OF VILLAS** 10 beach plus Vale'O. **GETTING HERE** A 40-minute flight from Nadi airport. **BOOK IT** Abercrombie & Kent ([www.abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://www.abercrombiekent.co.uk)) offers seven nights all-inclusive in a Garden Bure from £6,645 per person, including flights from London and transfers



## LIKULIKU LAGOON RESORT, FIJI

FOR FIRST-NAME TERMS IN A LOCALLY OWNED HIDEAWAY

Fijians are famously friendly, but nowhere is the welcoming song as heartfelt as at Likuliku. The staff are fiercely proud that this adults-only retreat is Fijian-owned, and even the gardeners greet you by name. The 10 overwater bungalows are the only ones in Fiji and on sunny afternoons and torch-lit nights, Api, Joeli and Jale dish up Coco Mojitos at the Masima island bar. Eseta and Rosie work their massage magic in the secluded spa, and Kiwi chef Ihaka Neri serves top-notch Pacific Rim cuisine. Days ebb and flow with the tide: high signals lunch, low means cocktails. Up with the sun? Take an island-hopping tour to the beach at MonuRaki, where Tom Hanks shot *Cast Away*. Surrounded by a magnificent coral reef, it is one of Fiji's most popular jaunts, but at this hour you have it all to yourself. Stop off for a snorkel before heading back for a late breakfast of crab omelette with chilli-papaya relish. **NUMBER OF VILLAS** 10 overwater, 35 beach. **GETTING HERE** A 20-minute drive, then a 45-minute boat ride or 10 minutes by helicopter. **BOOK IT** Carrier ([www.carrier.co.uk](http://www.carrier.co.uk)) offers seven nights full-board in a Beachfront Bure from £3,965 per person, including Air New Zealand flights and helicopter transfers



## INTERCONTINENTAL BORA BORA RESORT & THALASSO SPA, FRENCH POLYNESIA FOR WATER-BABY SPA JUNKIES

Constructed to feel like you are in a tropical grove, with meandering channels, coconut palms, pandanus trees, golden trumpet flowers and Madagascar periwinkle, this knockout hotel has overwater bungalows looking across to Bora Bora's towering peaks of Mount Otemanu and Mount Pahia. There is something indescribably romantic about this vista – as mysterious as Skull Island in 1933's *King Kong* – and the eye is constantly drawn to it. An impressive seawater-cooling system powers the air-conditioning and also provides the water for its fantastic spa: the best in the Pacific. Therapists use the purest of deep water (from 927 metres down) in all the hydrotherapy treatments. The spa is seconds from the ocean pounding at the coral reef, a sound as lulling as it is energising, and the pools and power washes (all with water so cold-salty and cleanly fresh it's almost drinkable) mean serious head-clearing business. Unlike other hotels along this stretch of coral atoll, guests can jump from their bungalows into the lagoon – and even find themselves in there with leaping eagle rays. As fires are lit on the beach at dusk, you can't help but still gaze towards the mountains, which are exalting without being sinister. NUMBER OF VILLAS 80 overwater, three beach. GETTING HERE A 50-minute flight from Papeete then a 10-minute boat transfer. BOOK IT Turquoise Holidays ([www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk](http://www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk)) offers seven nights B&B in a Emerald Overwater Junior Suite Villa from £3,745 per person, including flights from London with Air New Zealand and Air Tahiti Nui



## MOTU TANÉ, FRENCH POLYNESIA

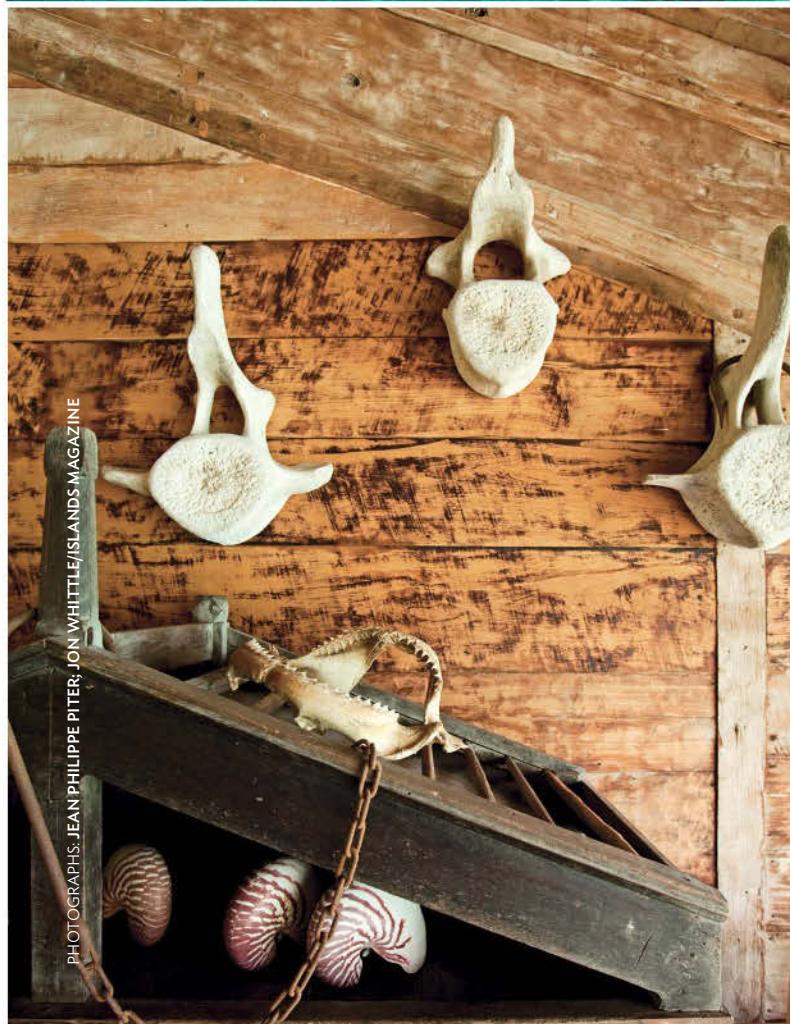
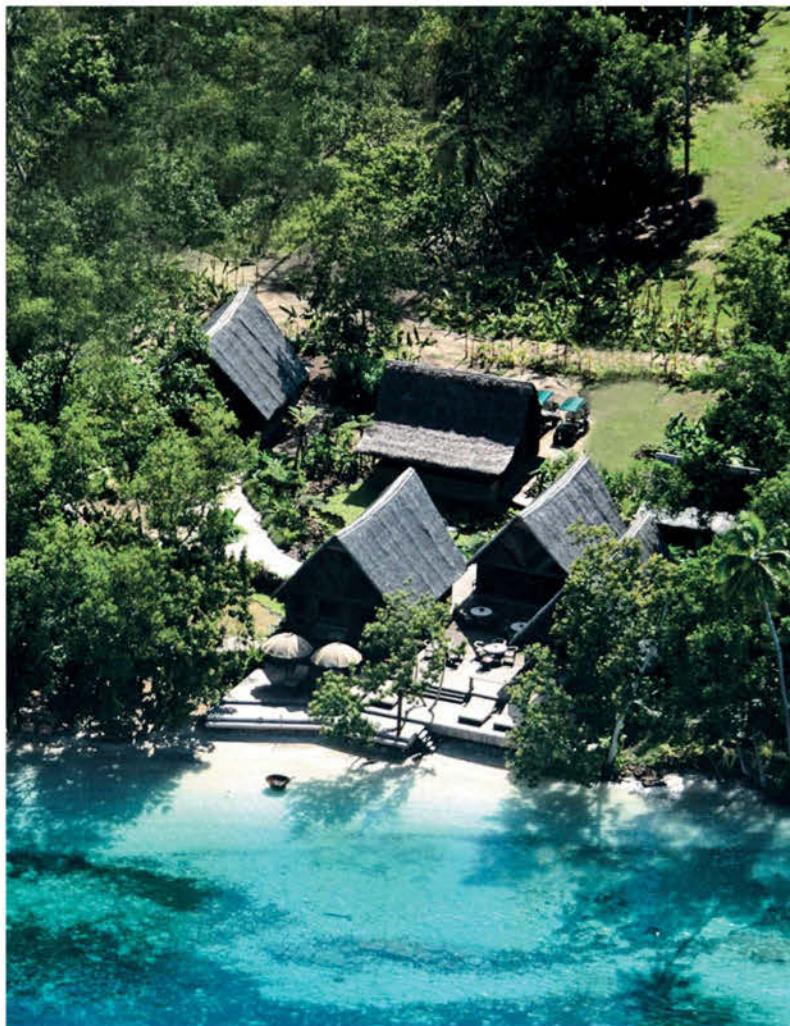
FOR MONEY-NO-OBJECT PRIVACY

Beauty-brand founder François Nars fell in love with Tahiti when he visited it for the first time with his family to celebrate the millennium. There was an island up for grabs nearby and, after selling his company to Shiseido in 2000, he bought it. That island was Motu Tané, a pinprick on a map off Bora Bora that once belonged to French explorer Paul-Emile Victor. A perfectionist, Nars created his impeccably styled paradise from scratch, right down to the 1,500 mature coconut palms he had planted. ‘I put all my energy into it for four years; it is a passionate project,’ he says. He brought in interior designer Christian Liaigre to create the muted scheme, avoiding bright shades ‘because the colour of nature here – the sea, all the greenery – is so strong’.

Oversized sofas in the all-wood, no-walls living space are covered in an inky navy; in the master bedrooms there are locally made bedspreads. Nars spends up to two months a year on the island; for the rest of the time, he rents it out, fully staffed – the most exclusive (you can only book direct), most expensive, most private retreat in the South Pacific. And yet the sense of elegant homely ease is instantly apparent, whether slipping onto the giant cushioned banquets, rifling through Nars’s DVD collection (he’s an avid old-movie fan) or settling beside the coconut pit under the night’s sky.

**NUMBER OF VILLAS** One main house, 11 guest houses. **GETTING HERE**

A 45-minute flight from Papeete then a 15-minute boat transfer. **BOOK IT** Sleeps 20. It costs about £19,000 per night for up to eight people, and £1,245 for each extra guest ([www.motutaneisland.com](http://www.motutaneisland.com))



PHOTOGRAPHS: JEAN PHILIPPE PITER; JON WHITTLE/ISLANDS MAGAZINE

## RATUA, VANUATU FOR CASTAWAYS WITH A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

Say you found the perfect tropical island – what would you do with it?

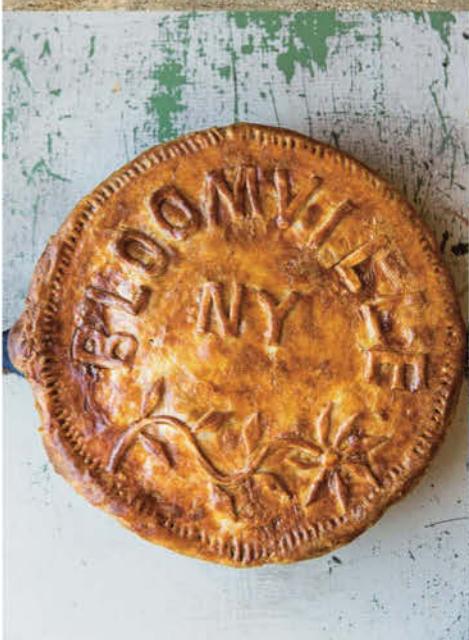
If you're like philanthropic French couple Marc and Isabelle Hénon, who created Ratua in 2008 after discovering it on a round-the-world sailing trip, you'd bring in some 200-year-old Javanese villas, decorate them with Balinese furniture, black-and-white photographs and objets

d'art you'd collected on your travels, then make the whole place environmentally and socially sustainable. Ratua is run as a not-for-profit foundation to benefit local tribal communities. This is not your usual private-island cocoon and is a truly barefoot kind of place, from the moment you step off the boat onto Ratua's simple wooden jetty. It's a world away from some of the all-bells, all-whistles hotels elsewhere in the South Pacific: here there are no room keys, no schedules, no rules. Just snorkelling and swimming in front of your villa, riding horses that Ratua's wranglers will saddle up for you, sipping

Piña Coladas served in just-fallen coconuts. Dinners are magical, candle-lit affairs in the open-air Yacht Club or at a long table on the beach, where you can wriggle your toes in the sand while eating freshly caught lobster. But the villas are the pièce de résistance; each is a perfectly struck blend of rustic and luxury, with rough-hewn walls and floors reminiscent of a fisherman's cabin heightening the sensation of being on your very own tropical island. **NUMBER OF VILLAS** 13.

**GETTING HERE** A one-hour flight from Port Vila to Espiritu Santo then a 30-minute boat transfer. **BOOK IT** Turquoise Holidays ([www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk](http://www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk)) offers seven nights B&B in a one-bedroom villa from £3,345 per person, including flights from London with Qantas and Air Vanuatu via Brisbane and boat transfers

**CONTRIBUTORS:** ANTONIA QUIRKE, LISA GRAINGER, SARA TAYLOR, UTE JUNKER, JULIETTA JAMESON, NIGEL TISDALE, LOUISE SOUTHERDEN, SHANNON MELNYK, EDWINA INGS-CHAMBERS





# GET OUT OF TOWN

NEW YORKERS ON A WEEKEND SPREE HAVE TRADITIONALLY HEADED FOR THE HAMPTONS, WITH ART GALLERIES AND MARTINIS ON TAP, BUT NOW SLOW-FOOD FARM-TO-TABLE COOL KIDS ARE TURNING INLAND INSTEAD

BY FRANCESCA SEGAL. PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALICE GAO



In the café at Table on Ten. Opposite: pizza, pie, herbs, interiors and a portrait of co-owner Inez Valk-Kempthorne at Table on Ten; and Danforth Jersey Farm, home of Cowbella dairy products



USED TO DREAM of the Catskills, though I'd never been. It was circulating somehow in my blood. When my father was growing up in Brooklyn, anyone who was anyone summered there, in the Borscht Belt, gathering at huge holiday camps to play tennis or golf; to have lox and a schmear at sumptuous kosher buffets; maybe even to enter a talent contest, nervous and daring, after a sip of crème de menthe. Music played. Young newcomers Mel Brooks and Joan Rivers might be on stage, or Woody Allen, performing to the home crowd.

Thirty years later I watched Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey in *Dirty Dancing* and lived and relived it; I longed to go back in time and be part of that innocent glamour. I didn't know those places came into being because no other holiday destination wanted Jews to stay there; that newly middle-class immigrant families had to open their own hotels, to find their own fun. But, boy, did they find it. By the 1950s and 60s, the Catskills resorts were the place to see and be seen among the East Coast's Jewish families – the upstate mountain forests studded with glitzy bingo halls, slick skating rinks and winking turquoise swimming pools.

Why did it all end? We didn't really need it any more. Civil rights improved and other people would have us to stay; international travel became affordable. That world drew its last, laboured breaths in 1986 when Grossinger's Catskill Resort Hotel – so large it had its own zip code – finally closed its doors. It's

*Left, signage at Table on Ten; above, notices pinned up in the café; opposite, salad, soup and sandwiches for lunch. Following pages: a Delaware County landscape; Inez Valk-Kempthorne with pizza*



perhaps no coincidence that *Dirty Dancing*, a celebration of the glory days, came out the following year. For a long time after, the Catskills were abandoned by visitors, remembered only in kitschy and nostalgic sepia.

But the Catskills are on the move again. Primrose Hill may have decamped long ago to the Cotswolds, but across the Atlantic, the first pioneering Brooklyn hipsters have just begun rediscovering the vast natural beauty of New York's mountains – more specifically Delaware County, in the western Catskills.

In the car on the way there, I admit, I was barking up the wrong tree. Falling maple leaves drifted across the road and I sang Bill Medley, loud and out of tune, as I lurched up and freewheeled down the rollercoaster mountain roads to Bloomville. Along the way I had stopped for directions from a man mending the screen doors on his porch, dressed in dungarees and a paint-splashed football sweatshirt. Which Bloomville was I headed for? Bloomville, New York, I told him, and he shook his head, disappointed for me. 'You can go square-dancing in the other Bloomville.'

Delaware County is dairy farmers' country, further north and west than my fantasy Catskills. I began to look around. I turned off 'Hungry Eyes' and tuned in the local radio; I guessed the words to country ballads, and in the ad break learned about the upcoming pancake breakfast at the local firehouse. I passed through forests of sugar maple and peeling paper birch, then open, rolling fields of grazing cattle.

So, no square-dancing. But this Bloomville has something better – possibly the best little restaurant upstate. It's hard to imagine more welcoming hosts than Inez Valk-Kempthorne and her husband Justus Kempthorne, owners of Bloomville's adorable and utterly unexpected Table on Ten. Originally from Holland, Inez met Justus, a carpenter, when she was modelling in Manhattan, and the couple began to spend weekends upstate, visiting friends who had a place in the magnificently named town of Bovina. They met a set of people who shared their values, a tight circle

WHO NEEDS MANHATTAN'S  
RESTAURANTS WHEN YOUR NEIGHBOURS  
GROW THEIR OWN DINOSAUR KALE?







from Flaca Vaca Farm, run by a pair of fellow city transplants whose herd of beautiful Red Polls are as affectionate as house cats, and just as loved and nurtured. The producers share Table on Ten's ethos. 'Even in the case of our chickens, you're with the animal till its last breath,' Flaca Vaca's co-owner Simon Martinez explains. They're emotional, these farmers, and know each cow and bull by name.

Inez is distractingly beautiful, but she's a great deal more than a 10-a-penny model-turned-foodie. She has a passion for using locally sourced, seasonal ingredients, often grown by people she knows, and turning them into creative, modern dishes. 'It's really all about the food,' she says. And it is: food is the thing that binds together an ever-expanding group of friends here. Within hours, I find myself invited to dinner at a farmhouse; I arrive to find every surface festooned with drying linguini, strung around the house like streamers – off the chairs, the back of the fridge door, the handles of the Aga, a few willing people's outstretched arms. Inez has brought fresh beetroot pesto; someone else has made

## THE COWS AROUND HERE ARE AS AFFECTIONATE AS HOUSE CATS, AND JUST AS LOVED

of former New Yorkers committed to sustainable, responsible, small-scale agriculture and, above all, to dreaming up feasts with what they and their friends produced. Most weekends they would meet in someone's farm kitchen and cook together, and eventually Delaware County got under their skin and the couple made the move full-time. They set about building their own post-and-beam house, sleeping in a teepee until they finished it.

And then, over the years, an old, abandoned house nearby on Route 10 kept catching Inez's eye. 'I would drive past it all the time, and eventually we found out who was selling it, and made a sort of crazy offer.' The house had been empty for decades, but it sang to her, sitting high and proud above a crossroads in the centre of Bloomville. Inez understood its potential. Justus restored it and used oak salvaged from the old floorboards to construct a café.

Now, three years later, Inez's vision for the place is most in evidence on weekly Pizza Night. Every window is alight, and the clapboard house looks all the more inviting amid the partial dereliction of the rest of the tiny town. It looks every inch the gathering place they had dreamed of. The downstairs restaurant is packed with weekending families and young locals, all sharing tables and slices of Inez's sensational caramelised-fennel pizzas (followed by chocolate-and-ricotta pizza, too); upstairs the couple have added two rooms, available to rent on Airbnb, so that people can stay and see, up close, what they do.

On warm evenings the crowd spills into the garden for homemade Meyer lemon ice-cream sandwiches. One friend churns the butter, another brings eggs from her parents' farm down the road. Beef comes

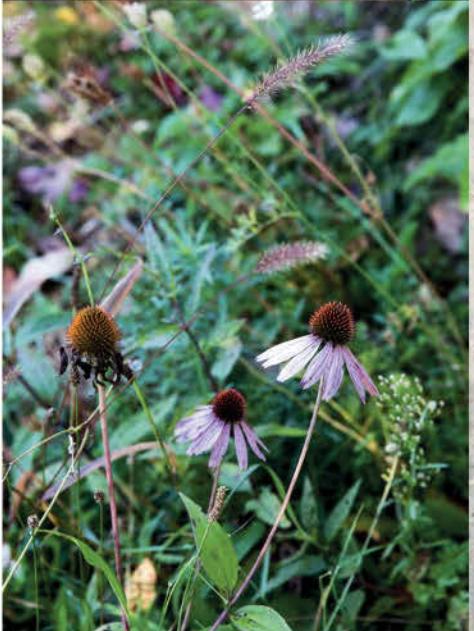
ice cream with another friend's moonshine maple syrup. It's just a regular Thursday night in Delaware County – an embarrassment of fresh-farmed riches, and a group of ex-urbanites who have found refuge and inspiration in the countryside. Who needs Manhattan's restaurants when your neighbours make amazing raw-milk cheese and grow their own dinosaur kale?

A few miles down the road, another new kid on the block, Turquoise Barn, is a B&B with a different vibe – a little bit hippy-dippy, and seriously relaxing. Michelle Premura makes exquisite raw-food vegetarian breakfasts for her guests: oats in homemade brazil-nut

*Right, Table on Ten. Above, a self-service farm store. Opposite, clockwise from top left: the attic room and a bathroom at Table on Ten; Turquoise Barn; produce at the Lucky Dog Farm Store; a room at Turquoise Barn; Lucky Dog store; a meadow on Lucky Dog farm; the café; bedside lamp at Table on Ten*







milk, sprinkled with Tahitian vanilla, peppery nasturtium flowers and thick raw honey from a local beekeeper. This barn is a haven of dark woods and yoga-studio calm, wind chimes clinking and beautiful crimson amaranth growing just outside the window. I felt calmer just stepping through the door.

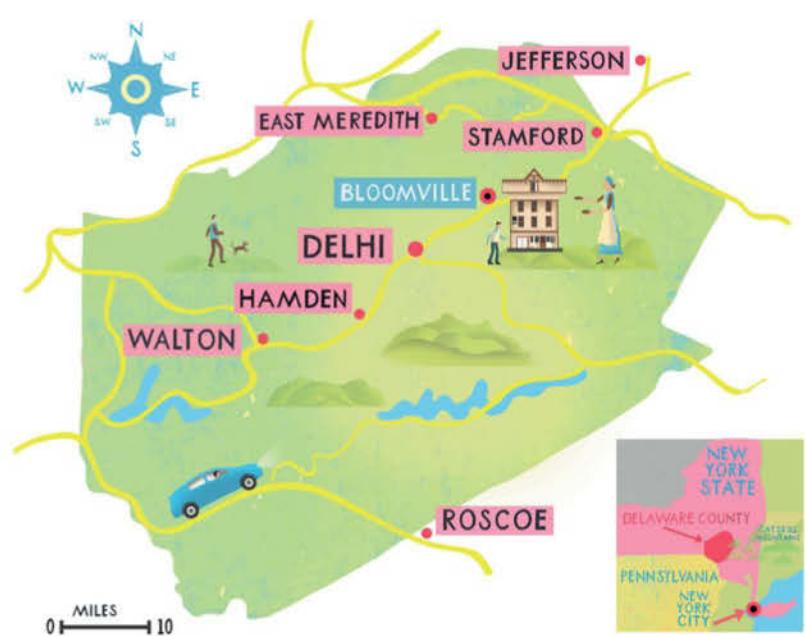
After days of tucking into rich cheeses at the local farms, the Turquoise Barn is the perfect haven – the food is healing, and there is a healthful tranquillity in the air. It's the sort of place that makes you wish you'd packed Thai fisherman's trousers to drift around in. Michelle runs workshops and retreats, and teaches raw-food cooking to city refugees seduced by the peace and natural beauty. Local forager and herbalist Marguerite Uhlmann-Bower leads guests on walks through the countryside. Delaware County is a small world; it's Marguerite who also supplies Table on Ten with bags of mixed leaves hand-picked from her garden, and she teaches the odd class there, too.

But it's not always so quiet around here. In 2013, Michelle's husband, Mike Milton, held Bloomville's first reggae festival on their land, incongruous in the middle of working farmland and the odd placidly grazing local cow. It was a surprise hit – live bands, delicious homemade drinks dreamed up by Michelle,

## FARMERS HAVE PUT UP QUIRKY LITTLE RUSTIC TEEPEES ON THEIR LAND

happy campers dancing barefoot into the small hours – so they did it all again last year, and plans for the 2015 event are under way. Perhaps there's a little festival magic in the air; Woodstock, after all, is only a 90-minute drive away.

Delaware County is almost the antithesis of the Catskills I'd imagined: muddy boots and country rambles; leaf-peeping; wheels of beer-washed cheese and litres of dark-amber maple syrup stacked in honesty shops and roadside stalls; sharp wood smoke on the air. People here believe that the three-hour drive from Manhattan creates an invisible boundary – and Bloomville and the neighbouring towns are a crucial 40 minutes further on, which weeds out the fair-weather weekenders and flashy faux-farmers. Out here a community is forming, slowly but surely, combining new ideals with old-fashioned values. On Stony Creek Farmstead near Walton, Kate and Dan Marsiglio have put up quirky little rustic teepees on their land, and one of their greatest pleasures is to watch visiting families reconnect amid the simplicity (and utter lack of mobile-phone coverage) of rural life. Guests are invited to get their hands dirty – to gather herbs, collect their own eggs, muck in with the pigs or milk the cows if they'd like. If you ask nicely, they might even let you carry a watermelon. 



## TO BLOOMVILLE AND BEYOND

Hire a pickup truck to fit in with the locals, and sling a coolbox in the back for your foodie finds

### DELAWARE PHOENIX DISTILLERY Walton

Cheryl Lins began making absinthe after she 'read online it was partially illegal'. A few years on, her small-batch absinthes and whiskies have been winning awards. The wheat whisky is incredibly good, and the Walton Waters absinthe should have pride of place in any drinks cabinet. Well worth the suitcase space. +1 607 865 5056; [www.delawarephoenix.com](http://www.delawarephoenix.com)

### HARPERSFIELD CHEESE Jefferson

Corinne Brovotto became a dairy farmer because she had heard it was 'the most family-friendly business'. Her cheeses have just been discovered by Whole Foods Market. One of them is flavoured with raspberry-tea leaves from another New York State producer, Harney & Son's; it's fantastic, as are the caraway-seed and lavender varieties. +1 607 278 6622; [harpersfieldcheese.com](http://harpersfieldcheese.com)

### COWBELLA Jefferson

Cowbella owner Shannon Mason is a sixth-generation dairy farmer, and her little daughter Daisy is determined to take over as the seventh just as soon she's old enough. The company makes divine butter and naturally flavoured yogurts using local fruit and produce; look out for the maple yogurt they whip up whenever their neighbour comes round to tap their trees. +1 607 652 2814; [www.cowbella.com](http://www.cowbella.com)

### FLACA VACA FARM Stamford

Stop by at the farm owned by Simon Martinez and Robert Bollinger, meet the soppy and cosseted herd and pick up a side of beef. Robert used to run John Masters Organics haircare, so these cows are particularly stylish. +1 607 222 7654; [www.flacavacafarm.com](http://www.flacavacafarm.com)

### PROHIBITION DISTILLERY Roscoe

Bootlegger 21 is a satin-smooth corn vodka that has lured away Ketel One fans. Daily tastings take place at the distillery in Roscoe's old firehouse. +1 607 498 4511; [www.prohibitiondistillery.com](http://www.prohibitiondistillery.com)

### BYEBROOK FARM Bloomville

Paul and Gwen Deysenroth's dairy farm produces a smooth, nutty Gouda and raw milk so delicious you swig it straight from the bottle. +1 607 538 9796

### LUCKY DOG ORGANIC FARM Hamden

The place for crisp salads and organic vegetables, with a gorgeous farm shop and café too. Much of the food at Table on Ten comes from these fields. +1 607 746 8383; [www.luckydogorganic.com](http://www.luckydogorganic.com)

### MARGUERITE UHLMANN-BOWER East Meredith

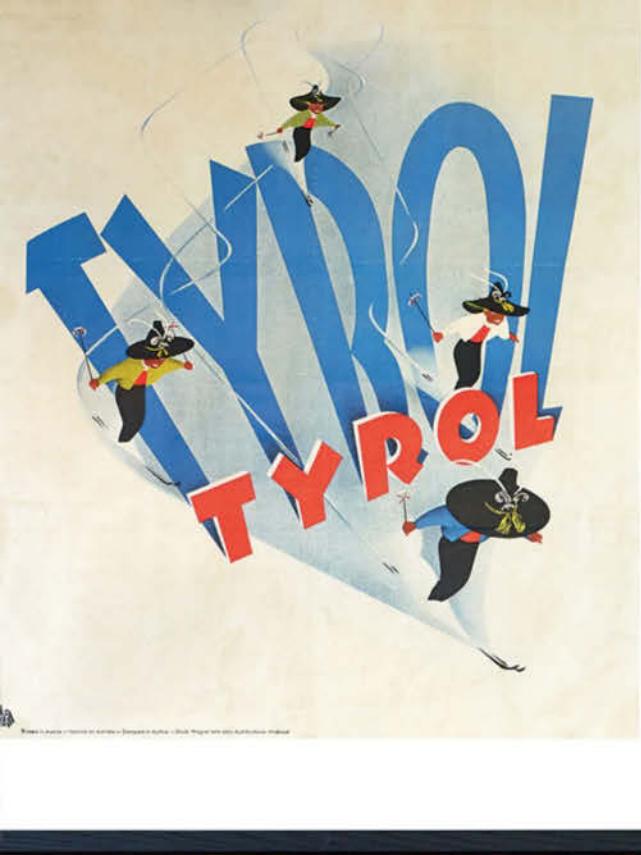
Marguerite has a garden of medicinal plants, which she refers to as if they were old friends ('He wanted to grow here, so I've let him'). She runs homeopathic workshops and guided foraging walks, and her knowledge is encyclopaedic. +1 607 278 9635



RENTING A SKI CRASHPAD USED TO MEAN A WEEK OF ALPINE TWEENESS, BUT NOW A NEW BREED HAS HIT THE SLOPES, FUSING HIGH-CONCEPT ARCHITECTURE WITH COVETABLE INTERIOR DESIGN. HERE'S OUR PICK OF THE EUROPEAN CHALETS THAT REALLY TAKE IT TO THE EDGE.

BY EMMA LOVE

# FREESTYLING



One of the four apartments at Skyfall in Austria. Opposite, a room at Montagne Alternative, a series of converted houses and barns in a small Swiss village



## AUFBERG 1113

Piesendorf, near Zell  
Am Zee, Austria

What a spectacular modern structure. Made from glass and black-painted larch, this raised rectangular box has a balcony that catches the sun throughout the day.

Designed by architect Andreas Meck, the house is split into two apartments – Sparrow's Nest and Swallow's Nest – that can be rented separately or together.

Both have a stylish, uniform look: flagstone or wood floors, felt-covered sofas, open fires and quirky chill-out nooks cut out of the wall. Much of the furniture has been built by the architect, including a dining room table that's made from an old wooden door, but there are also Hans Wegner chairs and a matching Bestlite light hanging from the ceiling, a bathtub by Philippe Starck and a coat stand made from sticks by designer Michael Schwebius that looks more like a piece of art. [www.aufberg.at](http://www.aufberg.at). From £149 per night individually; £354 per night for the whole house (sleeps seven)





## LA PEDEVILLA

South Tyrol, Italy

Like two sides of a monochrome domino piece, this blackened-timber chalet in the tiny hamlet of Pliscia flips its palette inside to reveal white concrete walls, floors and ceilings in the ultra-light kitchen and dining room. Designed by husband-and-wife architects Armin Pedevilla and Caroline Willeit, this minimalist haven is barely furnished, with just a cowhide rug and vintage table in the dining room, surrounded by Gothic-style chairs with keyhole backs by Tyrolean interior-design company Haidacher. Curtains made from thick, woollen Loden cloth soften the look and there are flashes of fun, such as the mismatched sofas and a curved pinewood table in the living room that resembles a half-eaten apple rolling on its back, and the colourful Dot coat hooks by Muuto on the stairs. It's all lovely and lo-fi: water comes from the chalet's own well, deer streak through the snow-covered meadows and fresh milk can be bought from the farm next door.

[www.lapedevilla.it](http://www.lapedevilla.it). From around £157 per night. Sleeps four

## MONTAGNE ALTERNATIVE

Orsières, Switzerland

In the once-forgotten medieval hamlet of Commiere, a handful of houses and barns have been revamped by Swiss architect Patrick Devanthy, whose work includes the Lausanne opera house.

Crooked walls have been straightened and strengthened, roofs rebuilt and floors polished.

The result is a sensitive yet still rustic transformation – each of the four chalets retains traces of its former life, whether in the larch that has been re-used on the stairs or the window slats inspired by the spaces between barn beams once used to dry hay. The biggest and most contemporary is Barbey, which sleeps 10. But all have been brought bang up to date with leather sofas beside glass-fronted fireplaces, plus there's a yoga and spa treatment room in one of the buildings. Much of the furniture, such as the 1950s school chairs, was bought at antique markets in Brussels, and combined with Indian throws and swirl-patterned rugs, a three-legged Tom Dixon stool in one corner, a big Moroccan cushion in another. It's an eclectic and unexpected mix that really works.

[www.montagne-alternative.com](http://www.montagne-alternative.com). From about £260 per night for Maison Berard (sleeps four)





## VILLA SOLAIRE

Morzine, France

With its lofty beams, vaulted ceilings and charcoal-grey walls, the vast living and dining room is at the heart of this former 19th-century farmhouse in Pied de la Plagne. There are plenty of sofas with quilted throws for flopping by the fire, and a custom-made Bigfoot table for dinner parties by German design firm e15 (along with its trademark Backenzahn wooden stools, with tapered legs). But it's the design details applied by Nantes-based JKA Architecture that really make this place stand out. The stairs are used to display a pair of Arne Jacobsen lamps that look like upside-down telescopes; the all-white, mosaic-tiled bathrooms are punctuated with red Vola taps and, in the kitchen, a rough wooden vertical beam cuts straight through the breakfast bar. Downtime can be spent potting balls in the billiards room or lazing by the small indoor pool, whose surrounding floor area has been lined with the original roof tiles. [www.villa-solaire-morzine.com](http://www.villa-solaire-morzine.com).

From around £3,095 per week. Sleeps 14



## CHALET CYANELLA

Megève, France

At first glance, Mies van der Rohe's 'less is more' adage seems to be behind the concept here.

Oak-panelled ceilings and taupe walls form the smart framework of the communal hangout space with its long, L-shaped slate-grey sofa, while bedrooms are studies in simplicity, all white on wood. Look closer though and carefully chosen classics – the Sixties bat-shaped Pipistrello lamp by Gae Aulenti; a futuristic Elda armchair by Joe Colombo that wouldn't look out of place in *Mad Men* – add a hefty dash of design kudos. And a playful, tongue-in-cheek touch is provided by artworks such as the cheerful, primary-coloured abstract by Serge Poliakoff in the bedroom, subversive images by photographer Nobuyoshi Araki and knobbly ceramics by Tony Marsh. Explore further and it gets even funkier. Downstairs, a swimming pool for leisurely laps glows pink, red and purple, reflecting the strips of coloured lighting above, and can be covered over to transform the space into a cinema room or dancefloor. [www.alpineguru.com](http://www.alpineguru.com). From around £47,234 per week, including cleaner, butler and chauffeur-driven Range Rover. Sleeps 14

## THE TIMBER HOUSES

Leis, Switzerland

Pritzker-prize-winning Swiss architect

Peter Zumthor has designed these neighbouring ski-in, ski-out chalets in typically pared-back style to create a pair of supremely calming spaces. Inside and outside, Unterhus and Türmlihus are carefully constructed from planks of pine; neat dovetail joints slotted together at the corners like precisely placed blocks in a game of Jenga. Both houses are decked out in a mix of Zumthor's own designs and furniture by a smattering of heavyweight names (Le Corbusier, Eames), and the otherwise all-timber interiors are broken up by occasional pops of colour – a red Arne Jacobsen Egg chair next to a curved back; a plush, purple sofa by Antonio

Citterio – and an unexpectedly industrial, stainless-steel kitchen. In another well-thought twist, the layout of the houses is flipped upside down so the living area is at the top, looking out over a 17th-century chapel and the mountains beyond. Zumthor's own holiday home is in the same hamlet and more of his work can be seen at Therme Vals, the nearby spa hotel crafted from layered slabs of local stone over the only thermal spring in the Graubünden Canton.

[www.zumthorferienhaeuser.ch](http://www.zumthorferienhaeuser.ch). From around £754 for a three-night stay. Unterhus and Türmlihus both sleep five





## BERGE

Aschau im Chiemgau, Germany

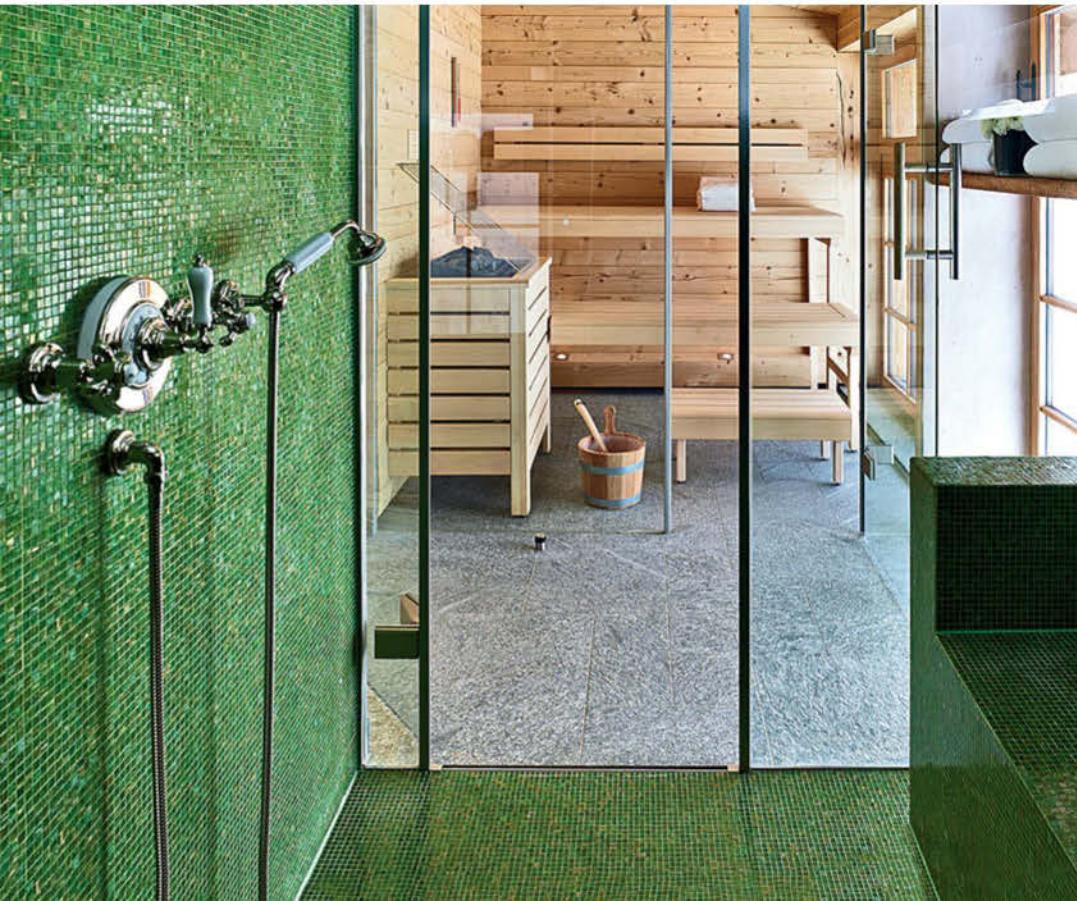
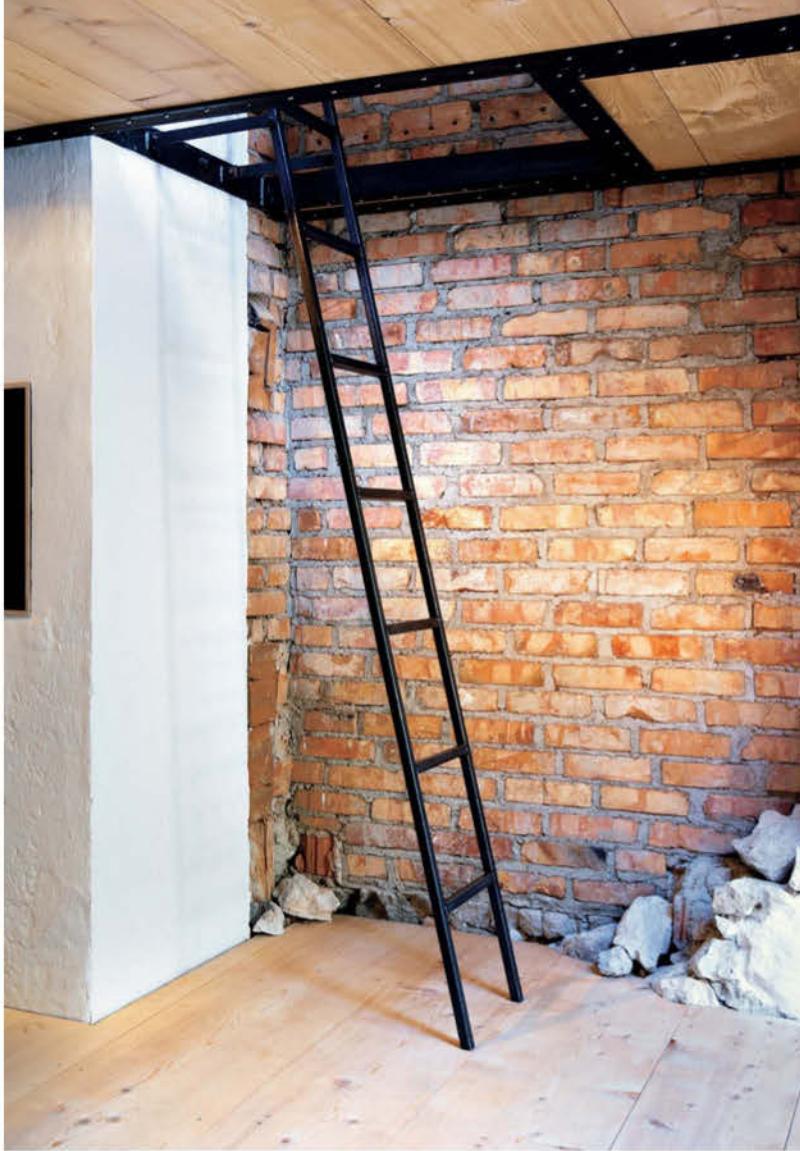
This former bakery at the foot of the Kampenwand Mountain used to supply bread to the nearby castle before it was turned into 16 apartments by owner and designer Nils Holger Moormann. In his furniture, form follows function, and he often collaborates with fellow German designers who share his streamlined vision. Here, black plywood beds fit together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, magnetic shelves are moveable and white storage cupboards can be rolled about on castors. It's out-of-the-box thinking packaged up to look effortlessly simple. Each space is laid out differently (in Nordwand, you sleep in the eaves, while studio K3 has a fold-away bed) but whichever you plump for, there is no TV or Wi-Fi. Instead, you'll find well-thumbed novels and knitting kits with the first few rows already started. If you fancy taking one home you can buy them in the shop, along with the beech chopping boards, salt pots and Bavarian beer glasses found in the kitchen. [www.moermann-berge.de](http://www.moermann-berge.de). From £312 per person for a four-night stay. Apartments sleep up to six



## BAITA 1697

Sestriere, Italy

Gloriously grown-up, this renovated 17th-century Piedmontese farmhouse is in equal parts snug and sleek. In the open-plan living/dining room, interior-designer owner Lucy McCullough has taken her cues from the vaulted stone ceiling and fireplace, cleverly colour-matching sofas, cushions and triangular-scooped felt chairs by Belgian design duo Fox & Freeze to the cave-like space. At one end, a larch table by local sculptor Guido Ronchail unfolds like an envelope to seat 12 on Perspex chairs draped in fluffy sheepskins. Upstairs are five bedrooms (plus a dorm for the kids): one, in the eaves, has a reclaimed copper bathtub; another a lustrous silver-leaf sleigh bed and, in the en-suite, painted rich teal, a fantastically intricate Chinese latticework screen divides the space. The best spot, though, is the top-floor living room. Here a pair of leather club chairs rootled out from the Braderie de Lille antiques market sit next to the woodburner on a patchwork Mongolian felt rug. And beyond the sliding door, a hot tub and firepit face out to the Milky Way's highest mountain, Banchetta. [www.alpineguru.com](http://www.alpineguru.com). From £12,654 a week, catered. Sleeps 18



## SKYFALL

St Christoph, Austria

Despite the Bond-ish name and numbering of the four apartments (001 to 004), the vibe here is homely, somewhere to hunker down.

Named by the owners' children for the breathtaking views of the Valluga peak, Skyfall is the first private chalet to be built in the village for 50 years, and possibly the last, due to super-strict planning restrictions. The pick here is penthouse apartment 004, set on the top two floors with five bedrooms and bathrooms and a smart, David Linley-designed kitchen. In the dining room, glass-disc chandeliers by Italian lighting company Viabizzuno twinkle above an antique refectory table. Original black-and-white mountaineering photographs from the Royal Geographical Society and vintage ski posters are framed on the walls.

Everything is cleverly considered, right down to little touches such as bone handles on the doors, tree motifs carved on the bunk beds and a pair of binoculars atop a tripod for spotting skiers as they swoosh down the slopes. [www.arlbergskyfall.com](http://www.arlbergskyfall.com). 004 from £14,220 a week. Sleeps 11



# it's oh so QUIET

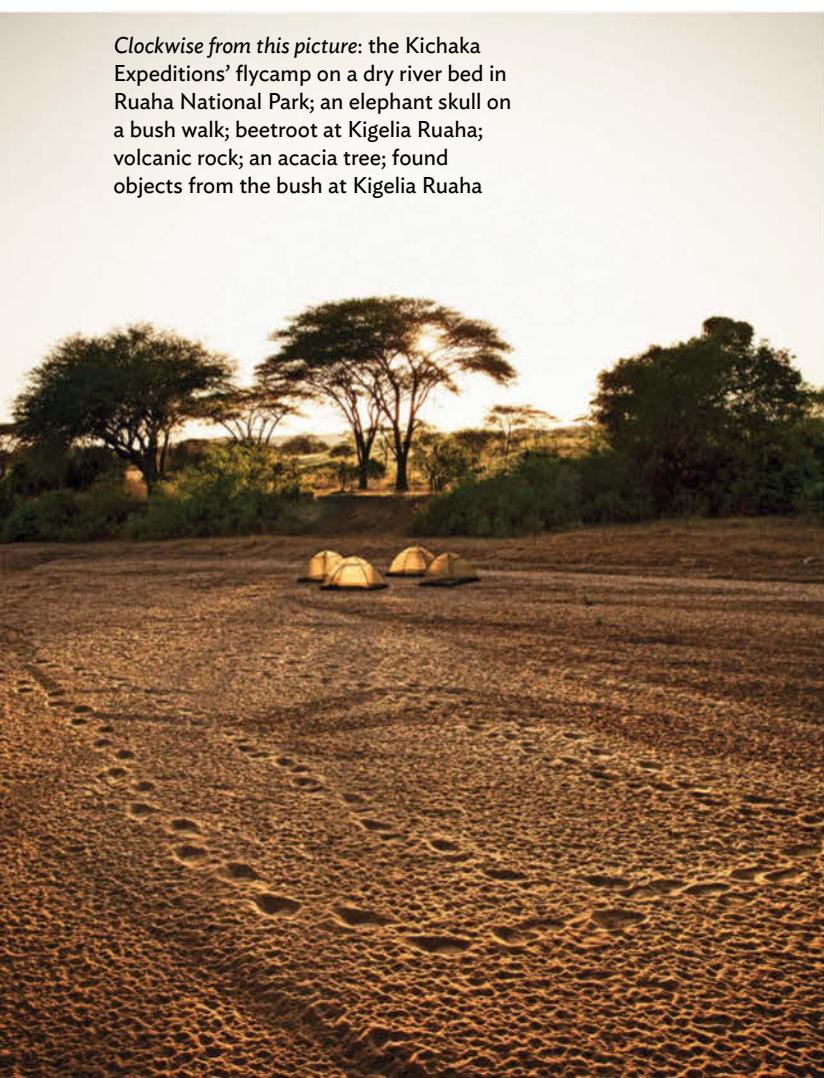
IN A FORGOTTEN CORNER OF AFRICA YOU CAN STILL SAFARI LIKE 50 YEARS AGO. BUT NOW

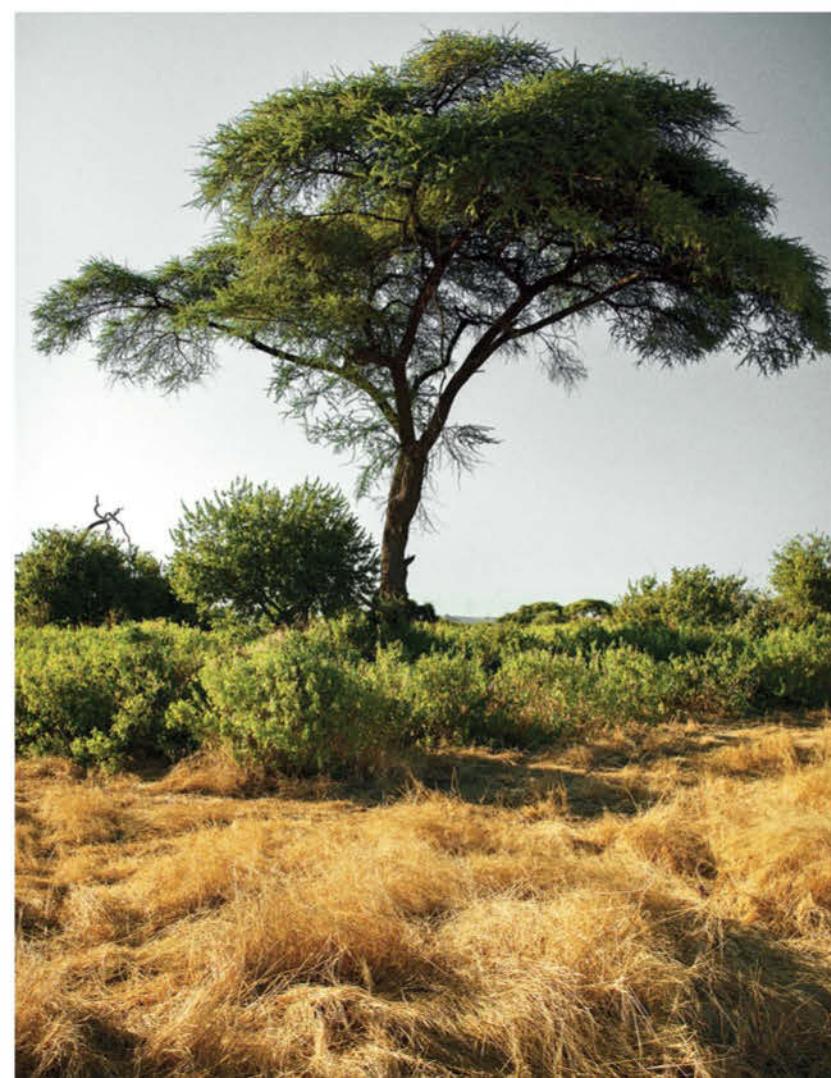
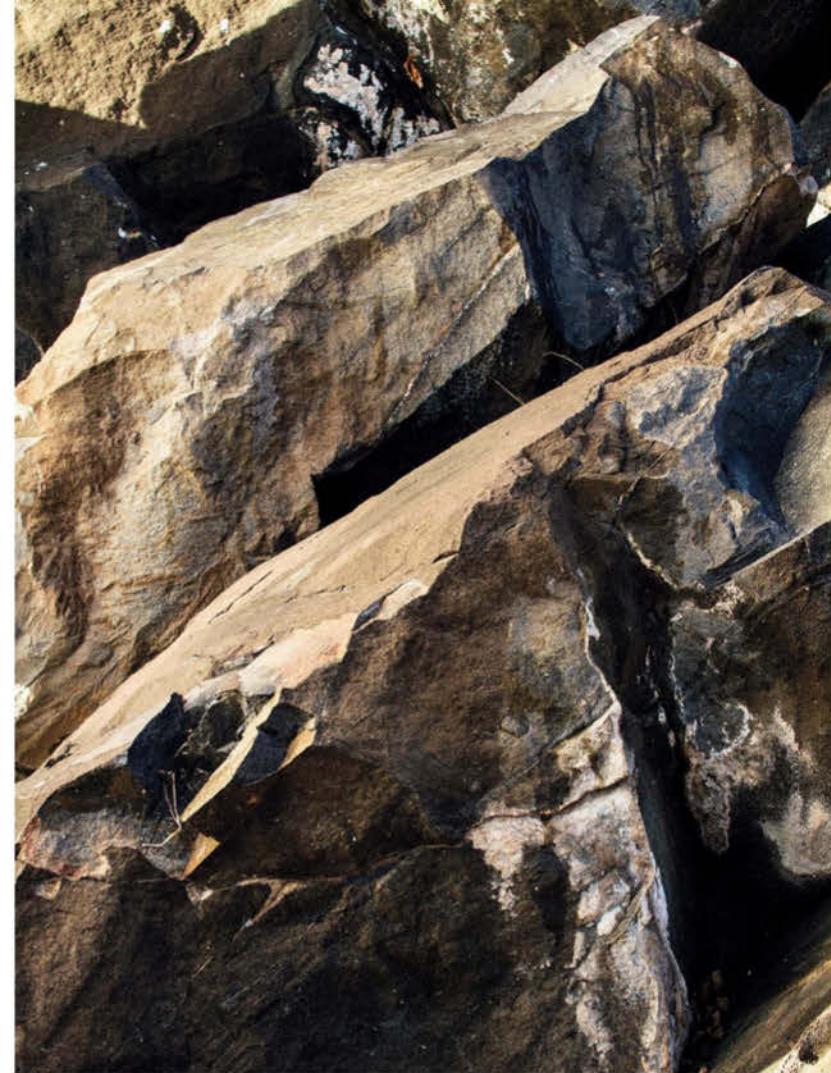


RUAWA IS ON THE Cusp OF A SHAKE-UP. BY PETER BROWNE. PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL PHELPS



Clockwise from this picture: the Kichaka Expeditions' flycamp on a dry river bed in Ruaha National Park; an elephant skull on a bush walk; beetroot at Kigelia Ruaha; volcanic rock; an acacia tree; found objects from the bush at Kigelia Ruaha





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HIS IS THE BIGGEST NATIONAL PARK in Tanzania, but there are no smart lodges here. Not many roads either, or vehicles to navigate them. There are only simple, government-run campsites without electricity or drinking water, and low-key private camps, one several hours from any neighbours, with bucket showers and short-drop loos.

How has Ruaha stayed hidden for so long, with this vast, beautiful, challenging landscape of baobab forests like battalions of sumo wrestlers; of tall, skinny palm trees and wide, bleached-sand rivers; of black volcanic rock and sparkling pink quartz? Here, where time expands beneath colossal china-blue skies, I have seen more elephant and lion than anywhere else in Africa, and tracked great herds of buffalo too. Exceptional guides – kind and clever men whose passion and knowledge knows no bounds – have shown and told me things that have caused goose bumps, and made me laugh out loud.

All this was once a tiny corner of the Hehe Empire, ruled with a steely hand by Chief Mkwawa, a smart young leader who inspired respect through displays of military might, and fear, by selling off captured enemies to the slave trade. His rise to power in the late 1800s coincided with German expansion from the coast to the unexplored interior. The colonial troops torched Hehe villages, murdered emissaries and pillaged the royal village, forcing Chief Mkwawa into hiding. For years he continued to prick at the colonialists' pride with guerrilla-style skirmishes until, surrounded and facing death or capture, he chose to shoot himself. The German soldier who found him decapitated the body and his skull was put on display at an anthropological museum in Bremen. A century later, it was returned and buried with his body not far from Iringa, the closest village to Ruaha National Park.

I first heard of Ruaha and Chief Mkwawa a few years ago when I was on safari in the Selous Game Reserve, another enormous, little-visited wildlife area in southern Tanzania. The north of the country is far better known thanks to the annual Great Migration of wildebeest across the Serengeti plains and the cinematic sweep of the Ngorongoro Crater, both charismatic show-stoppers for safari enthusiasts the world over. But there is an inevitable downside to such obvious beauty and fame: swarms of tourists snapping away like paparazzi.

The south – and Ruaha National Park in particular – gets none of this noisy, red-carpet treatment. Created by the Germans in 1910 and expanded by the Brits, its girth was recently enlarged once again when the adjoining Usangu Game Reserve was absorbed into its boundaries. Now covering more than 20,000 square kilometres, it represents one of East Africa's most important conservation areas. Add the fact that just a fraction of it is utilised and Ruaha becomes incredibly enticing for those who are, like me, perpetually in search of truly wild places.

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HE LAND ROVER shuddered to a halt in a cloud of dust. 'Welcome to Ruaha,' said the grinning blond man in wraparound sunglasses and sweat-stained hat, hand outstretched. 'My name is Moli. The drive to camp will take about four hours. If we set off now we can have a bush lunch on the way and get there in time for a drink! That OK? What an incredible day!'

And so we set off, only stopping once to pick up an armed ranger from park headquarters. I had just dropped out of the sky

How has this beautiful landscape of baobab forests like



BATTALIONS OF SUMO WRESTLERS STAYED HIDDEN FOR SO LONG?





## HERE, BENEATH (OLOSSA) CHINA-BLUE SKIES, I HAVE SEEN

from London, gritty-eyed, befuddled and sucked dry from cabin pressure. I wasn't looking forward to four hours on the road. Then I looked around. In the seat beside me sat the young Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) ranger clutching a shiny rifle. A Hehe tribesman from Itinga, he looked no more than 17 years old, and fit to bursting with pride in his pressed new uniform. In the driver's seat in front, my host Andrew Molinaro (Moli), navigating the dirt road with one hand on the wheel, eyes scanning, calling out: 'Nice big ele on the left!'; 'Beautiful giraffe on the right! Just look at her markings!'; 'Greater kudu coming up ahead! Fantastic!'

The next four hours, travelling upstream along the course of the Great Ruaha River across an always-changing landscape of open plains and dense, overhanging forest, past clumps of baobab trees several thousand years old, were restorative and – fortunately for me – just the start of an edifying and invigorating African adventure.

Moli, a 35-year-old Kenyan of Italian descent, has been a walking-safari guide in southern Tanzania for more than a decade. His mentor when he worked in the Selous Game Reserve –

the spiritual home of walking safaris in these parts – was Brian Nicholson, one of East Africa's most famously outspoken conservationists.

Moli knows Ruaha like his own mind, senses it with his soul, explores it on foot, and loves it with all of his heart. Last year, after five years running Jongomero Camp, he branched out and set up Kichaka Expeditions with his partner Noelle Herzog, a sunny Californian who came out to Iringa as an anthropology student for one semester and has stayed seven years, and counting.

The camp Moli and Noelle have created is completely isolated, in an unexplored section of the park devoid of any signs of habitation. From here, on a particularly beautiful bend of the Great Ruaha River where there are gently rushing rapids and tall shady trees, the couple run private walking safaris for two to six people. There are just three simple tents linked by a meandering sand path cut into the riverine forest, often pockmarked with fresh leopard prints in the morning. Noelle has taught herself to cook here with great success, given there is no electricity or running water and only the most basic



Chairs laid out for sundowners beside the Great Ruaha River. From far left: a tuskless matriarch elephant; a shower tent at Kichaka Expeditions camp; a fair-maned lion



## MORE ELEPHANT AND LION THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN AFRICA

equipment. She has also mastered running an exceptionally remote camp with a handful of Hehe tribesmen. Until recently she and her team would wave Moli and his guests off in the morning, dismantle the entire camp, load it onto a truck, move it to another location and reassemble it, all in time for lunch.

Fortunately, sanity prevailed and the basecamp now stays put and guests can choose to stay out overnight at a satellite camp, known as a flycamp, in lightweight domed tents. Days are spent on a combination of walking and driving safaris. More hardcore types walk between flycamps for one or two weeks, staying in basecamp for just a night or two on either side of their trip.

A walking safari with Moli is never dull. He has a keen mind, rammed with information, and an uninhibited and enthusiastic style of delivery: blue eyes widening, hands emphasising, arms gesticulating. He is a born storyteller. But for a lot of the time he is silent, reading the bush like a well-thumbed manual.

One afternoon, with Moli ahead shaking a gauze bag of ash to test the wind direction, we got within metres of a breeding herd of elephant: mothers, aunties, teenagers, toddlers, all dozy and languid, rumbling and rubbing along contentedly, stripping

off tree bark, crunching through leaves and breaking off branches. We stood and watched for what could have been 10 minutes or 10 hours – time is irrelevant, hearts thump – when from somewhere behind, a giraffe sounded an alarm – unexpectedly loud, a massive sneeze – and the herd shot off at astonishing speed like wind-up toys set free.

‘Isn’t meeting up with elephant on foot just the best thing in the world?’ said Moli, smiling.

IT IS THOUGHT THAT Tanzania has lost half of its elephant population to ivory poachers since 2007. I am told that at the Selous Game Reserve, the epic herds for which it was once justly famous have been all but decimated. Perhaps as a result of this, Ruaha now holds the record for the largest concentration of elephants in the country, as well as huge herds of buffalo, tracked by a tenth of the world’s lion population. Such abundance is always encouraging, but with it comes the responsibility of protecting it, a difficult task in an underutilised park of this size.

Part of Tanzania National Parks’ plan is to encourage visitors to Ruaha, which will in turn swell the park’s coffers and help

WE WATCHED THE ELEPHANTS FOR WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN HOURS,  
WHEN FROM SOMEWHERE A GIRAFFE SOUNDED AN ALARM -  
A MASSIVE SNEEZE - AND SHOT OFF LIKE A WIND-UP TOY SET FREE



pay for anti-poaching efforts. By all accounts the new warden, Christopher Timbuka, is a forward thinker, a mover and shaker, and in the past year the United Nations has helped fund road upgrades (the network, compact as it is, works brilliantly) and also train rangers whose job, other than to occasionally accompany walking-safari guides such as Moli, is to patrol the park.

To the relatively few who know and love Ruaha, its appeal as a first-class wildlife sanctuary has never been in doubt. By rights, with its diverse ecosystem, healthy wildlife populations and reputation for excellent guiding, it should be rated right up there with the top game parks in Africa. But so far its safari camps have been mostly pretty basic, and run on tight budgets with nothing in the pot for improvements.

Now all that's starting to change. Along with Kichaka Expeditions' new camp, a couple of innovative safari outfits with serious clout in East Africa have taken on two existing campsites, and have permission from TANAPA to expand. The new ventures will in effect skip a generation to bring Ruaha up to speed with the competition, while also pledging to protect and tread lightly in this pristine environment.

In November 2013, Kigelia Ruaha, an intimate tented camp built on the banks of the Ifuguru Sand River six years ago, was bought by Nomad Tanzania, best known for Greystoke Mahale, its chimpanzee-tracking outpost on Lake Tanganyika. It is hidden away in a thick clump of sausage trees (*Kigelia africana*, from which it takes its name), a grove so dense it had managed to conceal three bull elephants as a surprise for my arrival.

As it was lunchtime, one came forward to inspect the fresh salads laid out on a serving table in the mess tent, soberly stepping over guy-ropes to extend its trunk and hoover up greenery spilt from the hastily removed bowls. All three hung around camp for the rest of the afternoon, inspecting the kitchen and guest tents, then moving down to the dry river bed to have a half-hearted go at digging a well, before moving on to find a more easily procured drink.

The upgraded tents at Kigelia are elegant but simple and solar-powered, with big bathrooms and eco-flush loos. Water for the showers is heated in a drum on an open fire and sent to your tent piping hot and lightly perfumed with wood smoke. This year, a more permanent camp is planned for a nearby hill with views down to the Ifuguru, where a flycamp will be set up for nights under the stars.

At about the same time that Nomad Tanzania moved into Ruaha, the Cape Town-based company Asilia Africa took over Kwiha Camp, a little further east and in a prime game-viewing area near the Mwagusi Sand River. The old place was spruced up for its first season under Asilia and a new manager brought in from Zanzibar. There are also plans to build a much bigger camp nearby, while sticking with the previous owner's policy of employing exceptional guides, who have worked in Ruaha for years and know it inside-out, down to



the behavioural patterns of resident lions, including Grumpy, an ill-tempered male in the Wakali pride. There are 10 known prides around the camps and every night in Ruaha is accompanied by the sound of lions calling across the ghostly river beds and forests of baobabs, patrolling, mating, hunting.

It was the magic hour before nightfall when we stopped on the banks of the Mwagusi Sand River to photograph a lioness with three cubs trotting behind her. Everything about that moment seemed to me perfection: the cubs bouncing along, chasing each other's tails, leaping at butterflies; the glossy lioness in her prime striding purposefully ahead.

With the sun about to set – a humdinger of a red orb plunging down through a show-off fiesta of purple clouds – we got out of the vehicle to stretch our legs. Stiff whiskies were poured, deep breaths taken, the pungent scent of the African potato bush in the air.

'Don't move,' someone whispered urgently.

No more than a couple of metres ahead, a big male lion emerged from the darkening bush. He paused. We froze. He looked at us, somewhat disdainfully I thought, his blond mane catching the evening breeze, before continuing on his path down to the river bed and out of sight.

'He's the dominant male in this area,' said our guide, 'about 11 years old and still in great shape. He's seen it all and knows when to choose a fight. A really chilled guy.'

I was just grateful it wasn't Grumpy.

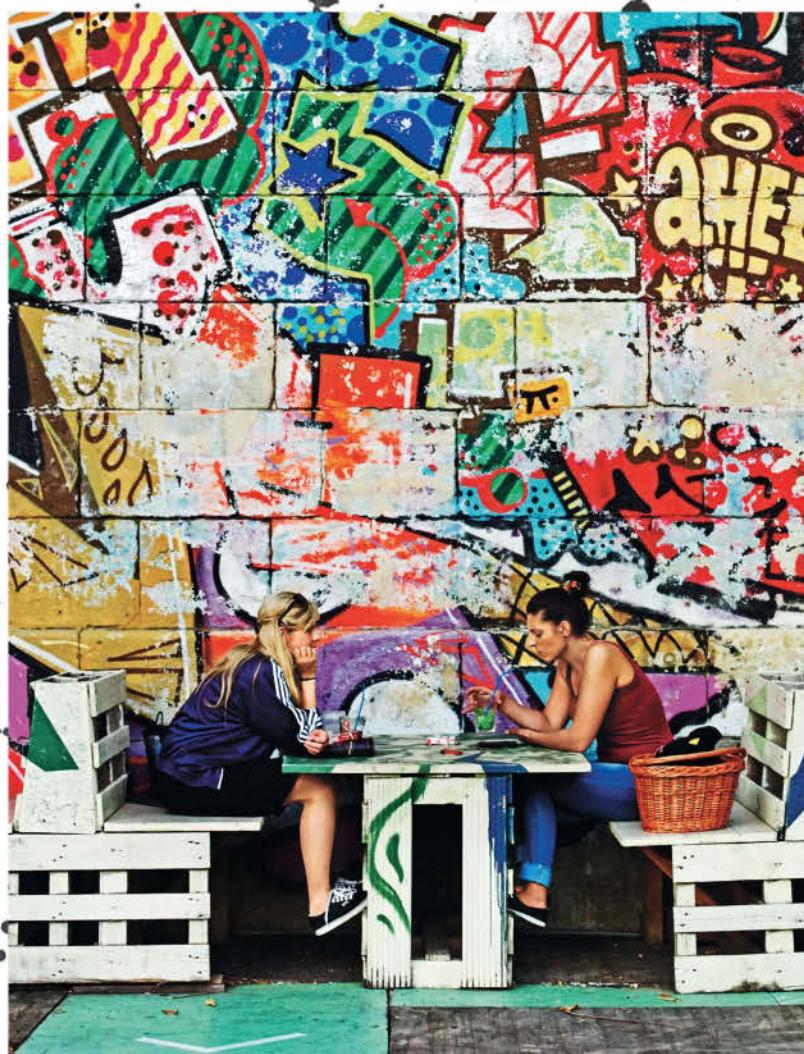
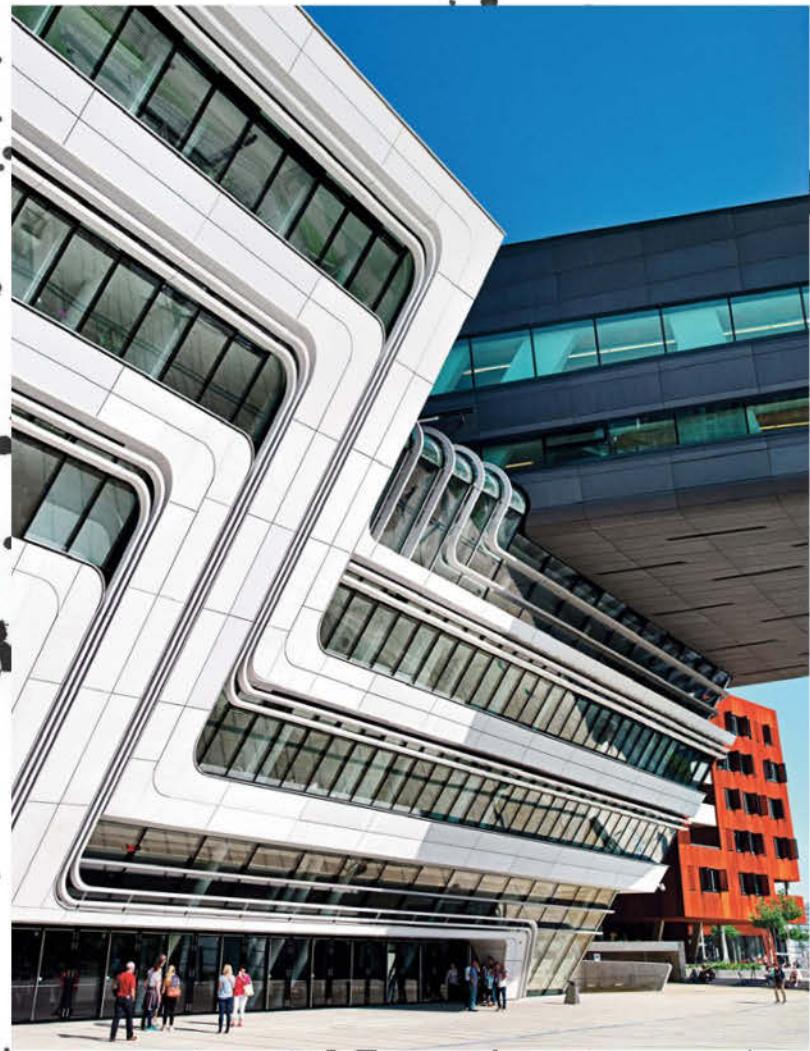
*Natural High (+44 1747 830950; [www.naturalhighsafaris.com](http://www.naturalhighsafaris.com)) offers a seven-night trip to Ruaha, with three nights on a Kichaka Expeditions walking safari and two nights each at Kwiha Camp and Kigelia Ruaha, from £3,195 per person, travelling in June 2015. The price includes safari activities, most drinks, all meals, park fees and internal flights with Safari Airlink. Kenya Airways ([www.kenya-airways.com](http://www.kenya-airways.com)) flies from Heathrow to Dar es Salaam via Nairobi*

# SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL

Shy and retiring Vienna has got its attitude back and is now moving to a new beat, as maverick architects, bohemian foodies and spray-can radicals take to the streets. By Rick Jordan. Photographs by Øivind Haug



The newly opened Sneak-In: part streetwear store, part café-bar. Opposite, clockwise from top left: works by Carl Andre and others in a recent show at the 21er Haus; Zaha Hadid's new university library building; sushi with salmon tempura and avocado at Mochi; hanging out on the Danube Canal





'M BEING FOLLOWED by a man in a powdered wig and a satin frockcoat that glistens lollipop-red in the sunshine. He's also wearing breeches and, incongruously, a pair of black trainers. Out of the corner of my eye I spot another wig approaching, and step up my pace. It's like a scene from *A Clockwork Orange* but there's nothing sinister; I'm just trying to outmanoeuvre Vienna's past.

The pair of opera touts are only part of it. While the city of a century ago crackled with dreams and visions, sparked by Schiele and Schoenberg, Trotsky and Freud, in later decades it slumbered contentedly. Stroll around its well-preserved 1st district, where neoclassical palaces line the boulevards like calcified icebergs, and it's easy to imagine yourself basking in the twilight of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the operetta of Mitteleuropa, where Berlin appears as the carousing libertine and Prague the fiendish necromancer, Vienna usually gets typecast as the strait-laced spinster fussing over her knick-knacks.

But the city has cut itself some slack lately and revealed a different side to its character: more self-assertive, playful even. Vivienne Westwood dressed up the Vienna Ballet in tartan and plaid, a bearded Austrian man in drag called Conchita won the Eurovision title, and everyone seems to know of a musician or artist friend just moved back from Berlin. In fact, young creatives no longer feel the need to leave in the first place. As

one told me, 'We're at the age now, in our mid-20s and mid-30s, when we feel we're starting to take control of our own city.'

To explore this new Vienna, I'm staying just south of the centre in the 4th district, Wieden. My bed floats on a polished concrete floor next to an angular Tommaso Cimini lamp and a cushioned window seat (just the place to eavesdrop on the city's unconscious); a wooden desk-shelf spans a white-washed brick wall, holding my sink, a Mac crammed with local tips, a kettle and vintage typewriter. It's all as neat as a draughtsman's drawer. Next door, instead of another hotel room, is a shop selling hub caps. I'm a guest of the Urbonauts, a group of three personable young architects who have been steadily turning empty shops into street-level lofts. In this city of spies, it feels like staying in a safe house, from which I can come and go unnoticed.

The idea is to immerse guests in a downtown neighbourhood, away from the main drag but with plenty to discover. Instead of a room directory I'm given a map – on paper just thin enough to chew and swallow if I'm caught and interrogated – which pinpoints places to eat, drink and shop: the green-boothed Café Goldegg for breakfast, where a waitress in bowtie and a Sally Bowles bob brings me coffee and eggs; Aromat for supper, where my buckwheat galettes are flipped by the blue-capped Olli. There's a bike outside my room that I wobble around on, getting to know the area.

At the top of my street, the city seems to slow down, pause for breath; though it's here that one of Vienna's futures is materialising: the new central station, to open in 2016 and stream

*Above:* headgear for sale at the Hotel Daniel; the Phil Café, for books and coffee. *Opposite, clockwise from top left:* a room with hammock at the Daniel; contemporary art in the baroque Winter Palace, former home to Prince Eugene of Savoy; the Daniel's bakery, and its Airstream trailer





Clockwise: an Urbanauts apartment; Mochi restaurant; reception at the Hotel Daniel; snail with bone marrow, salsify and cress at Konstantin Filippou. Opposite, street art by ROA, near Schadekgasse





passengers from Budapest, Prague, Venice. You can watch its progress from atop an observation tower, the Bahnorama, 40 metres high; you can also look back in time across the rooftops.

Experiments in modernity cast long shadows in Vienna: the Donauturm from 1964, when a tower with revolving restaurants was the must-have Space Age accessory; the audacious Haas Haus from 1990, its curvaceous glasswork distorting the crusty stalagmite of St Stephen's spire. Recent arrivals include the DC Tower, which undulates darkly on the horizon, a tad lonely (its mirror-image twin has yet to be built); and, crash-landing on maximum warp drive, Zaha Hadid's university library, cantilevered high above passing students, its flouride-white

of the Belvedere gardens. Compared to the city's old-guard hotels, these two appear as nonchalant as teenagers popping gum at the back of class, as if their designers went to Glastonbury for the first time and haven't been quite the same since: the Daniel with beehives up top and an Airstream at the back, plus its own bakery; the 25hours with its circus styling and gourmet-burger van. More grown up is The Guesthouse, nodding distance from the Sacher but without the uniformed doorman. There may be a gang of feral hipsters partying in the lift and on the walls, courtesy of photographer Wolfgang Zac, but this is an eminently relaxed hotel, with a brasserie warmed by a wood-burning stove and cosy, windowside reading nooks in the bedrooms.

## Street artists have been set loose around the city to create wall-sized murals. Black-inked rats seem to emerge from the sewers, minotaurs lock horns, and a coal-eyed fox leaps on its unsuspecting prey

interior looking way too futuristic to contain anything so archaic as the printed word. Funny to think all these owe something to Austrian architect Adolf Loos, who almost caused a riot when he took a razorblade to embellishment. He had a fondness for English tailoring and a scorn for pretension, reckoning (in 1908) that 'anyone who goes round in a velvet coat today is not an artist but a buffoon or a house painter'.

A century ago, artists scraped chairs and dunked moustache bristles at the Grand and the Landtmann; these days they gather for Sunday brunch or retro-jazz nights at the rooftop Dachboden bar in the 25hours hotel, eyeballing neoclassical statues on the building opposite, or at the Daniel on the edge

Then there's Roberto's American Bar. I hear about Roberto Pavlović long before I meet him, as half the city's young bartenders mention his name with hushed reverence. As I slide onto the only empty stool, I'm handed a shot of Fernet Branca to clear my palate. Roberto, thick-framed glasses on, sweptback hair, is already three Old-Fashioneds in and talks to me as if picking up a conversation we'd begun days earlier. 'I was in London recently,' he tells me; 'the people I met were so drunk. But so *gentle*.' Then he's off again, to restore order in a corner of the bar with a bear hug and Champagne. A huddle of clubland promoters are in, celebrating a birthday, all sweatshirts and hi-tops (what would be the collective noun for

promoters – a euphoria? A comedown?). Back in the mid-1990s, half my friends and I were listening to Kruder & Dorfmeister, a pair of Viennese DJ/producers known for their hypnotically fluid, dubby remixes, and I wondered just how influential they'd been. 'Those two were pioneers,' says one. 'They made us feel that anyone could be successful, even if we are in Vienna. There's always been a strong classical and opera culture, but not many spaces for young, creative people to let loose in. The guys behind Wurstsalon changed the game in the early 2000s, holding secret parties in parks, warehouses, even old Turkish discotheques, then founded the Pratersauna club. The Turbo crew followed, who opened Grelle Forelle. Maybe our proximity to Berlin forces us to stick together and work towards the same interests. I don't know many other cities where the mainstream and the underground are so tight with each other.'

Later I cab over to Pratersauna (my driver has Abba's 'Summer Night City' on the radio. Didn't he get the memo about his city's electronic-music policy?), which squats in an old Sixties spa near the giant ferris wheel. Inside, the crowd are lightly Aperol-spritzed; a trio of silhouetted DJs send fractals of sound spinning, basslines that will flap your trousers if they're not tight enough. By the pool outside, trying not to fall in, I get talking to Andreas, a graphic designer in check shirt, braces and a beard that would pass muster in the court of Franz Josef. 'Vienna used to be super-boring, but in the past few years there have been hip coffee shops and bars opening; there's the Feschmarkt at the Ottakringer brewery, with stalls

## Compared to Vienna's old-guard, the new hotels appear as nonchalant as teenagers popping gum at the back of class, as if their designers went to Glastonbury once and haven't been the same since

selling all sorts, the Pop Fest on Karlplatz, even robotic bartender events. I have a feeling there are more things to do now than I have time or money for.' He invites me along to the club's afternoon pool party the next day but warns 'it will be mainly girly techno'. Girly? 'You know, with *vocals*'.

'OH I WAS TRAVELLING THROUGH THIS COUNTRY, travelling with the Bundesbahn, taking along my baby. Suddenly she was gone – total *verschwunden*...' If it's a well-wrought lyric or two you want, flick through the folk and cabaret titles on the jukebox at the Zum Gschupftn Ferdl tavern. Cissy Kramer's 'Das Pin-Up Girl'. Or Helmut Qualtinger's 'Bundesbahn Blues'. From his image, Helmut was clearly a man who enjoyed his food and wine, and would have loved it here. The Ferdl is a reboot of the *heuriger*, the traditional wine tavern, which co-owner Nicholas Pöschl tells me had lost its way, become too naff with plastic vine leaves and barrels. 'We wanted to regenerate it like Doctor Who,' he says. From the pixelated neon-lime sign outside, PacMan appears to have a hand in the design; inside there's white-on-white cardboard art and a stencilled tractor on the walls. A waiter with a savagely shorn coiffure brings me a gold-rimmed souvenir glass of organic Uhudu wine – a fruity rosé with just a hint of Haribos – and a plate stacked with blood sausage, mountain cheese and a scoop of creamy lardo.

This is a country where you can be bowled over by dumplings, felled by boiled beef; yet one of the hottest tickets here is a tiny Japanese restaurant, Mochi, and elsewhere chefs are

twisting traditions, going veggie: in his 57 restaurant at the Meliá hotel, Siegfried Kröpfl plays with the possibilities of veganism at the highest level; Stefan Resch freshens up dishes such as pike perch and shoulder of lamb at the Park Hyatt's hi-tech Bank restaurant, sprinkling fennel pollen and hay milk over soups and pudding. In an unassuming spot near the canal is Konstantin Filippou's new restaurant, where the genial chef creates painterly plates on which vegetables often take centre stage, arranged with Zen-like precision: a sunburst of tomatoes sprouting herby tendrils; a foaming pea-and-mint ragout daubed with chorizo croutons.

Meanwhile, inside a grand mansion block with brass nameplates in the 9th district, an old-school food revival is under way. The door to Mezzanine 7 opens and a cloud of paper butterflies flutters up to the ceiling. 'We've been cutting them out for days,' says Martin Radl, as chef Wolfgang Hafner-Scheuer squeezes *spätzle* though a sieve like Playdoh. The apartment looks like a Jeff Koons installation, painted in liquorice-allsorts colours with kitsch porcelain, feathers, sepia photographs and chandeliers. The team spent months foraging flea markets and family recipe books and now curate the taste of imperial Austria at their private supper club – a new phenomenon for the city – with surprise performances from singers and musicians, teasing out childhood memories with sweet-and-sour marinades, wild herbs, soups served from antique tureens and beef slow-roasted for hours, scented with lovage, caraway and paprika.

A GROUP OF CHILDREN COAX MAKESHIFT VESSELS across a boating lake in the MuseumsQuartier courtyard, past Barbie-sized strip joints made from packing crates. This sprawling complex opened in the imperial stables in 2001 and marked a shift in attitude towards contemporary art; it now feels part of the fabric, like the Pompidou or Tate Modern, with cafés, gift shops and outsize fibreglass polygons to stretch out upon. Austrian artists such as Klimt and Schiele are well-known, of course, but at the MQ's basalt-slabbed Mumok gallery you can find the Viennese Actionists – the bad boys of the Sixties scene – who used the human body as a canvas, cocking a snook at conformity with smeared food, animal parts and worse. They were visually arresting, and usually arrested.

Encouraged by cheap project spaces and generous public funding, the city's creative topography has continued to shift, and new galleries and artworks are appearing in unlikely places. At dusk on a corner of Am Hof, the city's oldest square, Martian smoke begins to seep from grating: Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson's *Yellow Fog*, now a permanent part of the local weather pattern. The baroque Winter Palace – once home to Austria's Wellington-like hero, the cross-dressing Prince Eugene – is a recent requisition for the contemporary cause; I walk up along red carpets past Herculean marble figures who stare at me confounded, as if to say, 'Well, you'll never guess what they've gone and done upstairs.' Against the gold leaf and parquet floors, I find canvases by Sean Scully and Gerhard Richter, a resin door by Rachel Whiteread. It's easy to be

*Opposite, clockwise from top left:* inside Zaha Hadid's campus library building; one of the dining rooms at the Mezzanine 7 private supper club; street art by Shepard Fairey on a silo outside the Ankerbrotfabrik, part of the *Cash, Cans & Candy* series; Scandinavian fashion at We Bandits





distracted, though, by the vast murals detailing Eugene's victories – the puff of a musket here, a cavalry charge there.

The latest arts hub is a great big brown loaf of a building, the Ankerbrotfabrik, a former bread factory in the working-class 10th district. (It's all about fractions here. The 6th and 7th have the coolest shopping but it's getting expensive to rent there, I'm told; young folk are heading out to the 16th.) A street-art show, *Cash, Cans & Candy*, is in full flow, packed with paranoid stencil work and visceral, comic-style graphics, and its spraycan protagonists have been set loose on walls around the city. Black-inked rats seem to emerge from those *Third Man* sewers (the noir classic was shot here in 1948); minotaurs lock horns; a

## Down on the canal, Vienna hasn't just unbuttoned its shirt but shrugged it off completely. Waitresses lope across sand to the mosquito-whirr of electronica; the smoky fug of piri-piri catches my throat

coal-eyed fox leaps on its unsuspecting prey, frozen in the moment. 'There's something called "Viennese cosiness", which doesn't want to be disturbed by colourful, provocative messages,' Vasilena Gankovska, a Bulgarian-born artist, tells me. 'The challenge is making people accept the city is not only about a tidy, imperial surface but a place growing on the peripheries.'

Down by the canal, paint spores have bloomed, and graffiti spreads like lichen across the brickwork. Unseen trains rattle behind metal grills. Gotham on the Danube. Over the past 10 years the Danube Canal has been rescued from post-industrial malaise, and in the summer both banks are strewn with fairy-ring clusters of picnickers, couples swinging legs over the water



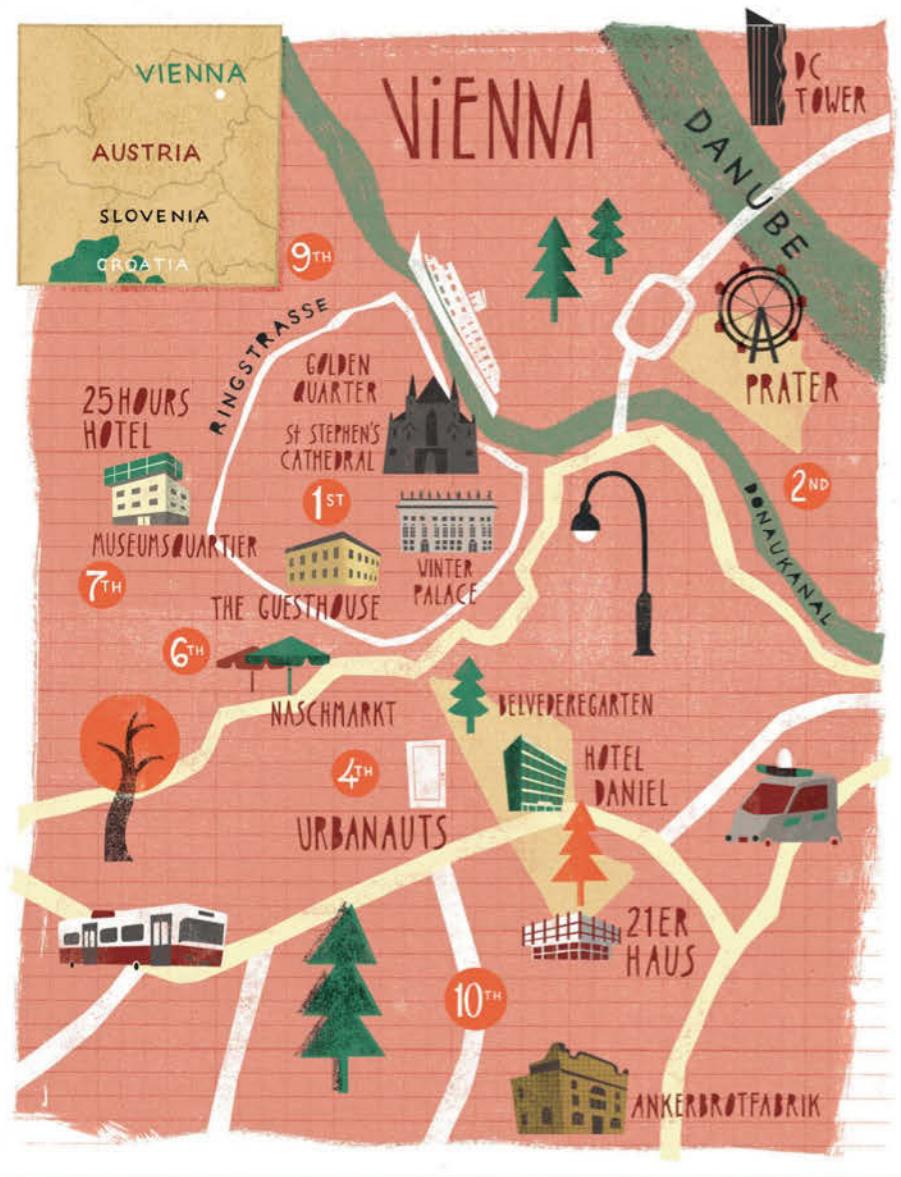
– a rippling colourwash thanks to LED reflections cast from the buildings above. Vienna hasn't just unbuttoned its shirt here, but shrugged it off. At the Tel Aviv Beach Bar, waitresses in cut-off denim and singlets lop across the sand, dispensing drinks to the mosquito-whirr-and-handclap of electronica. The smoky fug of piri-piri and grilled river fish from container-shack stalls catches my throat. From Motto am Fluss, a sleek superyacht of a bar, you can watch the Twin City Liner stream in from Bratislava and dock below. Have one too many and you might end up in Slovakia, just an hour away.

One piece of street-art satire portrays a caricatured developer saying, 'Next to this graffiti we'll set up our new hipster

lounge!' As a response to the commercialisation, a group of urban gardeners has colonised the space between two of the bars, filling huge wooden planters like those of New York's community plots. A sign next to some orange pom-pommed marigolds says, 'Please do not pick, they are all sacred.'

This year there'll be a hullabaloo about the 150th anniversary of the Ringstrasse, the city's centrepiece 19th-century boulevard; but there's plenty to celebrate outside that – new ideas and projects that are less formalised, seeding in the cracks and spaces in between. There's an old saying about this city: if the world is about to end, move to Vienna, because everything happens five years later here. But I'm not sure that's true anymore. T

*Above:* an urban garden has been planted between two bars on the banks of the Danube Canal; outside the Radleger cycle café



## WHERE TO SHOP

The skein of streets behind the MuseumsQuartier, in the 6th and 7th districts, are tailor-made for dawdling. Sophie Pollak opened **We Bandits** on Theoboldgasse in 2012, stocking small Scandi, Austrian and South Korean labels (Pushbutton, Uniforms for the Dedicated) and hosting pop-ups in an old ballroom nearby. ‘Korean designers are fun and not afraid of colour,’ says Pollak. I’m quite taken by a shirt with a star design that, on closer inspection, reveals itself to be a fox smoking a pipe. Next door is **Feinkoch**, a concept deli where you buy a recipe card then pick up all the ingredients needed. Other highlights include **Die Sellerie** on Burggasse, for wooden birds, letterpress cards and paper ornaments, and the gallery-like **Himbeer & Soda** for one-off furniture designs.

## COFFEEHOUSE VARIATIONS

New hybrids are bubbling up in this café-cultured city. Try the **Phil** on Gumpendorfer for literature and music; **Das Möbel** for cool interior design; **Radlager** for restored Italian

road bikes and an espresso from a 1960s Faema machine. Over the summer, three friends unveiled **Sneak In** to satisfy their love of snappy streetwear and trainers, mixing hard-to-find designs by Y-3, Ransom and Filling Pieces with a laidback café ambience and DJ sessions.

## WHERE TO EAT

**Mochi** Delicate as a lacquer box; try the sushi pizza and sake granita (if it’s busy, Ansari next door serves saffron-scented Georgian dishes). **Neni** A Middle-Eastern enclave amid the busy, foodie maze of the Naschmarkt (also look out for Kim Kocht’s Korean café). **Skopik & Lohn** A Nordic-fresh brasserie in the revitalised 2nd district, with doodles on the ceiling, deer ragout and quinoa on the menu. **Restaurant Konstantin Filippou** Exquisite Michelin-starred plates at reasonable prices. **Said the Butcher to the Cow** Vienna’s fledgling burger-and-gin craze starts here. **Mezzanine 7** To book for the vintage dinner, email Martin Radl at office@mezzanine7.at (menus are about £35 per person).

## DRINK

That anti-freeze scandal of the 1980s was the best thing to happen to Austrian wine. It’s now excellent – not just whites but punchy reds, too – and with grapes growing on its outskirts, Vienna is a rare, vine-to-glass city. Georg Grohs from the Wieninger winery just wants people to allow it to age a little. ‘The tradition has always been to drink them young, but now our wines are better they should be allowed to grow older,’ he tells me, a little sadly. Taste them by the glass at **Unger und Klein**, **Julius Meinl** and **Zum Gschupfn Ferdl**, or go on a day trip to the **Weininger** vineyard itself. For cocktails, **Roberto’s American Bar** sticks to the classics; for new concoctions, try the **Puff** speakeasy, in a former brothel, or **If Dogs Run Free** for a Damascus Sour (rum and cardamom). Best for rooftop views are **Le Loft** at the Sofitel and **Bloom** at Hotel Lamée, opposite St Stephen’s. And at the **Meliá** bar, 58 floors up with the Danube laid out below, the team will smoke any drink you like under a cloche – even a lager.

## ART

**Ernst Hilger** reckons you can spend at least two or three days exploring Vienna’s expanding gallery scene. The influential gallerist showed Warhol and Haring here in the 1980s; now he gets excited about video artist Julie Monaco and Simón Vega, a Salvadorian sculptor using found materials. Seek out small spaces around Eschenbachgasse in the 1st, and Schleifmühlgasse in the 4th, where the **Georg Kargl Gallery** is a pioneering force. As well as the **Winter Palace**, check out what’s on show at **21er Haus**, a taut, pavilion-style piece of Fifties architecture near the Belvedere garden.

## WHERE TO STAY

**Urbanauts** Two new apartments have just been unveiled; of the five, ‘The Tailoress’ is closest to the Urbanauts HQ, while ‘The Gallerist’ has a bathroom big enough for a string quartet. All have free mini-bars. *Doubles from about £80*

**The Guesthouse Vienna** Designed by Terence Conran in a Thirties-with-a-twist style; book the spacious 702 bedroom. Mini-bars are hugely generous with the wine. *Doubles from £135*

**25hours Hotel Vienna** Take one of the L rooms for the view and a bathtub. *Doubles from £95*

**Hotel Daniel** Book a Hammock Room at the back – or the Airstream, its interior refurbished by a yacht designer. *Doubles from £75*

**Park Hyatt Vienna** A vision in mother-of-pearl set in the Golden Quarter district, with a pool in the former bank vault. *Doubles from £310*

**Meliá Vienna** For an eagle’s-eye view of the city and Danube. [www.melia.com](http://www.melia.com). *Doubles from £115*

**Hotel am Brillantengrund** Where street artists and musicians (Cody Chestnut, Hudson Mohawke) crash. The manager’s mum rustles up top-notch Filipino food. *Doubles from £60*

## GETTING THERE

**British Airways** ([www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com)) flies direct from Heathrow. For city details, visit [www.wien.info](http://www.wien.info)



## AROUND THE WORLD WITH KATHLEEN TURNER

The husky-voiced star has romanced the stone with Michael Douglas, vamped up as Jessica Rabbit and cross-dressed in 'Friends', but where does she go for a bit of variety?

### Where in the world have you felt happiest?

The South of France. I've had some wonderful times there and it's so beautiful. Being near water is essential to me, but even the towns further inland, such as Grasse, thrill me. I think Château Saint-Martin is one of the most amazing hotels in the world. It's just magical up there, and the food! Oh, the food is unbelievable! Check it out, baby, you gotta go.

### Name a place that lived up to the hype

I was urged by some good friends to go to Goldeneye in Jamaica on a quick vacation. I had a little house on a lagoon that opens into the sea and I would go out first thing in the morning and just float for most of the day. It was heaven.

### And a place that least lived up to the hype

Marrakech. Last time I went, I really

didn't like it at all. We rented a nice place, but the city was just a mess. There are about 11 pedestrians killed every day, it's just awful.

### Which is your favourite city, and why?

New York. It's the best city in the world right now and the energy is wonderful. I just got back from five months in London doing a play, *Bakersfield Mist*, and every time I come home I just go, 'Oh my god I love this place'.

### Describe your favourite view

Anything with moving water. I live by the Hudson River and I have a wonderful day bed set up near the window, where I sit and read and watch the river.

### What do you pack first?

Walking shoes. It's difficult for me because I've had so many operations on my feet because of arthritis, so I make sure I take a good pair of sneakers.

### Describe a memory from a childhood holiday

On a magical trip, my family and I drove up to Scotland, through the Yorkshire moors – miles and miles of gorse. The road seemed to be going nowhere, but then suddenly we came to this beautiful hotel that used to be a monastery. I can't remember its name now but it was like Brigadoon.

### Where did you go on your first holiday without your parents?

Amsterdam. I was living in London then and my brother and I ran away, jumped on a ferry and went to Amsterdam and had a wonderful time. At that age, it was just great. What an adventure. I've been back since, but as an adult so I have to behave.

### Tell us about a great little place you know

If you're facing the Ponte Vecchio in



Florence and you go to your left, down the hill a bit, there's this place called Buca dell'Orafo. It's a family-run restaurant with big tables, and it's just everything you'd hope for in Italy, with old waiters shouting at each other, clunking down plates of absolutely delicious food... it's one of those places you dream of finding.

**What is the smartest hotel you've ever stayed in?**

The Lanesborough. Oh, it's gorgeous. If I really, really need to treat myself, I'll go and book a night there, even if I'm staying in a flat in London. If I'm working too hard I just think, to hell with this, I'm going to The Lanesborough, and it's like being in another world. I feel tremendously well taken care of there.

**Sightseeing or sun lounger, barefoot or bling?**

Definitely sightsee. I'm not good at sitting around, it's just boring unless I have a fantastic book. So sightseeing, and barefoot if possible, you bet.

**'I lost my heart in...'**

Paris. A cliché, but true. I went with the man who became my husband [Jay Weiss] and it was a bit of a test, because he'd never been overseas and I thought, well, before I seriously fall for this man,

I need to find out if he can handle the kind of life I intend to have. He did very well, damn it, and we had 22 years together.

**'I would never, ever go back to...'**

I loathe Vegas! I had to shoot a film there once and just hated it. And I go to LA as little as possible; I really don't care for it.

**What's your guilty pleasure**

Believe it or not, it's Pizza Express. I love it!

**'WHEN I WAS YOUNG  
I RAN AWAY TO  
AMSTERDAM. I'VE  
BEEN BACK SINCE,  
BUT AS AN ADULT SO  
I HAVE TO BEHAVE'**

**Favourite foreign phrase?**

I grew up in South America, so I find myself saying '*¿por qué no?*' a lot, but I actually find myself saying 'why not?' a lot in any language.

**Most regrettable holiday souvenir?**

This stupid clock that a friend gave me. I once took a little apartment in Aix-en-Provence and girlfriends would come and go. One of them came back

from shopping and gave me the ugliest damn clock I've ever seen and made me swear I wouldn't throw it away, so I'm looking at it right now, and every time I see it I think, why can't I break my promise?

**Who is the most interesting person you've met on your travels?**

Maggie Smith. She's become a great friend; she's so delightful and I have such fun with her. We met when I was in Gstaad staying with some friends one summer, and we went to this luncheon and Maggie was there – and then it ended up that we were back in London and our theatres were side by side, so we carried on! It's been lovely.

**What would you most like to find in your mini-bar?**

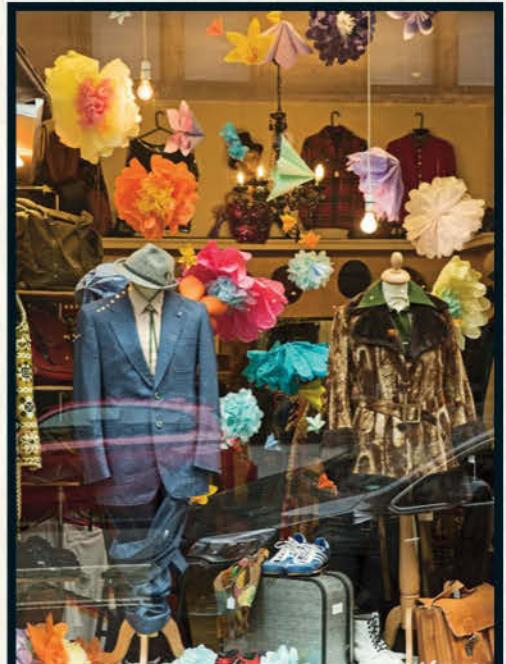
Potato vodka. I try to avoid grains and most vodka contains grain, so if a hotel mini-bar came up with potato vodka, I would go back.

**How do you relax?**

Reading. I like a lot of science-fiction and fantasy; those books take me to other worlds with different rules.

*Kathleen Turner was talking to Francesca Babb. She stars in 'Dumb and Dumber To', released on 19 December*

# IN BRITAIN





OUR SERIES OF INSIDER UK  
GUIDES CONTINUES WITH...

# GLASGOW

With sassy new haunts to the east, west and along the Clyde, no amount of colonnaded grandeur can mask this Scottish city's rebellious streak, says resident **Steve King**. Photographs by **Lydia Evans**

**A**mong the things you need to know about Glasgow that tend to get left unsaid: it is a spectacularly beautiful city that did as much as almost anywhere else in western Europe to shape the modern world and the way we live now. For more information, keep reading – or better still, go there and ask a Glaswegian. Any Glaswegian. Glaswegians like a wee blether, so they do. They're mouthy, irreverent, tipsy with talk, pleased to supply perfect strangers with up-to-the-minute bulletins as to their state of personal well-being and the human condition. And of course they swear wonderfully too.

Glasgow's mostly Victorian city centre is said to resemble that of 19th-century New York. Filmmakers love it for this reason (go to the intersection of Hope Street and St Vincent Street and you'll see why). But Glasgow's grandeur is its own. A little frayed around the edges, perhaps, yet the grandeur remains. Take a few steps off George Square and into the City Chambers and look up. Gleaming acres of marble, alabaster, gold leaf, mosaics and mahogany, receding in mad Piranesi perspectives. A monument to the tobacco lords, slave traders and ship builders in toppers and tails whose fortunes paid for it; a portal in time left tantalisingly ajar that leads back to Glasgow's longish moment as the Second City of the British Empire.

You get the grandeur in smaller doses too, in places where you least expect to find it, and it is a feature of the city's present as well as its past. Contradiction is the key. 'There's more joy in a Glasgow knife fight than an Edinburgh wedding,' they joke. Gallowgate humour. There is real strife here, but great wit and beauty and spirit too. Glasgow is a city that requires a kind of double vision if you are to see it clearly (cf 'Where to drink').



The restaurant at Blythswood Square

## WHERE TO STAY

### CITY SLICKERS

In the centre of Glasgow, two modern hotels in historic buildings remain

popular: **Blythswood Square** (doubles from £120) and **Malmaison Glasgow** on West George Street (doubles from £89). Trainspotters and those who find Tannoysoothing will enjoy the **Grand Central** on Gordon Street (doubles from £89), which adjoins the main railway station. In the leafy West End, **Hotel du Vin & Bistro** (doubles from £125) occupies an entire terrace of sandstone townhouses in Devonshire Gardens, beautifully restored inside and out. Guests are greeted on arrival with a dram of Macallan; the bar is cosy, woody, heavy on the tartan and popular with locals; so is the restaurant, which serves up an interesting contemporary take on traditional Scottish grub – the Cullen skink (haddock-and-potato soup) is fantastic. Among the city's new wave of boutique hotels, **15 Glasgow** in Woodside Place (doubles from £99) is whip-smart

and conveniently located between the city centre and the West End, facing the university's darkly looming Gothic spire.

### THE BONNY, BONNY BANKS

Less convenient but even smarter is **Cameron House** (doubles from £149), half an hour north-west of the city, on Loch Lomond. It's gorgeous, it has its own Michelin-starred Martin Wishart restaurant and you can catch a seaplane from the jetty outside the front door. A haven for those who voted 'No' in the independence referendum: for 300 years or so this Disney-perfect baronial pile belonged to the Smollett family, and Sir James Smollett helped draft the Act of Union in 1707.

## WHERE TO EAT

### SUPER SEAFOOD

**Rogano** in Exchange Place (about £90 for two) has since 1935 been doing a faultless impersonation of the Art Deco interior of the Cunard liner *Queen Mary*, launched from a Clyde shipyard the ➤



RE  
READER  
EVENT

Clockwise from top:  
Acacia & Honey Bath  
Soaps; Lime Basil &  
Mandarin Diffuser;  
Night Jasmine &  
Oregano Linen Spray  
and Jo Malone London  
Travel Bag; Square Box  
Hedge

**D**iscover limited edition *My Wanderlust* by Jo Malone London. These are scents to take you away; giving you the ultimate impulse to travel. Inspired by memories of faraway places, Jo Malone London's Style Editor, Charlotte Stockdale, takes us on her travels with this new limited edition Home Collection. The expansive Atlas mountains, fragrant Mediterranean hillsides, dusky Caribbean evenings, the outback, rich and golden, and finally, a green box hedge in an English garden. The real scent of home. Each fragrance is wrapped in an atmospheric watercolour, taken from the British travel tradition of watercolour sketches. This is the spirit of place, truly captured.

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There are only 50 places available so book now to avoid disappointment. To book your place, please call Jo Malone London on 0370 192 5121. A booking fee of £25 is required to reserve your place and is fully redeemable against Jo Malone London purchases at the event.

# SCENTS *to take you AWAY*

We're hosting an exclusive event with Jo Malone London to celebrate the launch of their new Home Collection; *My Wanderlust* by Charlotte Stockdale. Get ready to be inspired by scented memories of faraway places...

## CN TRAVELLER READER EVENT WITH JO MALONE LONDON

Condé Nast Traveller and Jo Malone London invite readers to discover *My Wanderlust* at an exclusive reader event. Join us at the Jo Malone London flagship boutique on Sloane Street for an evening hosted by Condé Nast Traveller's Fashion & Beauty Director, Fiona Lintott and Celine Roux, Executive Director of Global Product Development for Jo Malone London.

Celine works daily with some of the world's most celebrated and inspirational perfumers and she will

be there to introduce readers to the collection, telling its story and presenting the fragrances and their ingredients over champagne and canapés inspired by the scents.

### ON THE NIGHT:

You are invited to indulge in a pampering Hand & Arm Massage at the **Tasting Bar™** where Jo Malone™ Stylists will be on hand to offer bespoke **Fragrance Combining™** consultations. Discover how to travel in scented style with the innovative new product forms available in the *My Wanderlust Collection*, perfect for

creating your own scented travel memories. You will also leave with a Jo Malone™ gift bag as a memento.

### AT:

The Jo Malone London flagship boutique,  
150 Sloane Street,  
(which will be closed exclusively  
for Traveller readers)

### ON:

Thursday 22nd January 6:30pm – 8:30pm

# IN BRITAIN

► previous year. There's a ground-floor bit, a basement bit, a bar bit and an outside bit (over which hangs the suavest neon sign in the city). Ask for a booth at the back of the ground-floor bit. The lobster thermidor is beyond a guilty pleasure – more like a mortal sin. Other seafood stalwarts include the various outposts of the **Two Fat Ladies** empire – of which the West End original on Dumbarton Road (about £65 for two) is a firm favourite. A few years ago, the **Crabshakk** on Argyle Street (about £50 for two) scuttled onto the scene and clawed back some of the Fatties' business.

## SPICE IT UP

In Britain, only London and Bradford are better served for curry. The options are practically endless. **The Wee Curry Shop** on Buccleuch Street (about £30 for two) has the distinction of being very good, very friendly and – the clue is in the name – very small, with space for no more than 20 diners at a time.

## BITTERSWEET TREATS

The place for custard tarts is **Kember & Jones** on Byres Road. For ice cream, go a little further along and cross the road to **Nardini's**, younger brother of the legendary Largs establishment. For coffee, **All That Is Solid** on Osborne Street and the sleek, slightly smug **Hyndland Fox** on Clarence Drive are excellent.

### WHERE TO DRINK

#### ALL SHOOK UP

Glasgow may have a reputation among drinks snobs as 'not really a cocktail kind of town', but there's no desperate shortage of places to find a good cocktail. The bar at **Blythswood Square** hotel may have slipped from the eminence it enjoyed a few years back, but it's still going gangbusters. **The Bootleg** at The Corinthian Club on Ingram Street is part of a club-casino-bar-restaurant affair that sprawls over several floors of an old mansion in the Merchant City, which must be seen to be believed – the scale is so wrong it's right.

## NEW TWISTS

**The Lab** on Springfield Court has tables with names such as The Periodic Table and The 12 Times Table, and serves clever cocktails in test tubes (at £5 for five, it's an experiment that couldn't possibly go wrong). There are no books at the **Hillhead Bookclub** on Vinicombe



Clockwise from left: a waiter at Crabshakk seafood restaurant; Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum; All That Is Solid coffee shop



Street but there are retro video games, ping-pong tables, a lady who teaches embroidery on Tuesdays, £3 Strawberry Mojitos, and Bloody Marys served in old gramophones. **The Kelvingrove Café** is a converted ice-cream parlour on Argyle Street in hipster-friendly Finnieston, run by mixologist Mal Spence, late of the Blythswood, who insists on making his own ice using '1930s techniques' (freezing water presumably among them).

## DREAM DRAMS

If you plan to keep things simple and stick with whisky, head for **The Pot Still**, an old-school boozer on Hope Street that specialises in malts, of which they claim to stock several hundred. So much for the plan to keep things simple.

### WHERE TO SHOP

#### FINE AND DANDY

Many first-time visitors are surprised by how snappily Glaswegians dress. When **Armani** opened its first Glasgow boutique, on John Street, it did a higher turnover than any of the brand's other outlets in Europe. You can find the usual suspects around Buchanan Street and the Merchant City. But there is more fun to be had on dingy **Dumbarton Road** – Scotland's Royal Mile of second-hand tat – or at **Saratoga Trunk**, a warehouse chock-a-block with vintage clothing and costume jewellery, some of which is available for hire.

## ROLL UP, ROLL UP

A friend of mine has a theory that for £45 you get anything you want – a plasma-screen TV, a kitchen, a yacht, a kidney – at **The Barras**, the market on and off Gallowgate, east of the city centre near Glasgow Green. It's worth a visit even if you're already sorted for white goods and body parts. Elsewhere, for psychedelic soft furnishings and wallpaper (as seen in fine establishments such as the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom), check out **Timorous Beasties** on the Great Western Road. For random, cool, designery stuff, try **The Shop of Interest** on Argyle Street.

### WHAT TO SEE & DO

#### LOCAL HERO

Only a handful of geniuses manage to produce work so disconcertingly original that it compels you to look at familiar things in a new way. Charles Rennie Mackintosh – artist, architect, ➤

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## LONDON ART FAIR

Save 30% off advance tickets for London Art Fair (21-25 January), the UK's premier Modern British and contemporary art fair. The 27th edition of the Fair features 128 carefully selected galleries from the UK and overseas. Sotheby's Institute of Art will be leading an exclusive (to Traveller readers) Thursday Late tour of the Fair highlights. The tour starts at 7pm. To book your tickets for Thursday Late please quote LAF880 when booking at [www.londonartfair.co.uk/CNT](http://www.londonartfair.co.uk/CNT) valid until 01/01/2015.\*\*



## TRIP TO THE THEATRE

Enjoy a Premium Ticket to the musical Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown at the Playhouse Theatre, London and a 3-course meal in The Northall at Corinthia Hotel London with champagne for £75. Starring Olivier Award-winning actress Tamsin Greig, this heartfelt musical is based on Pedro Almodóvar's film. Valid Monday to Saturday performances from 16/12/14 – 16/02/2015, subject to availability. To book, call 0844 871 7631 or visit [womenthevergemusical.com](http://womenthevergemusical.com) quoting code 'traveller'.\*\*

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# IN BRITAIN

► designer, decorator, prodigiously moustachioed dapperling – was such a one. Start with the **Glasgow School of Art** on Renfrew Street, his first completed project and still among the top schools of its kind in the world. Mackintosh's masterpiece was badly damaged by fire last spring; even so, comparison between its scorched shell and a brand-new annexe across the street – the Seona Reid Building, by a fashionable American architect, which is supposed to be in some sort of 'dialogue' with Mackintosh's original – is likely to lead to a lively assessment of the two architects' relative merits. The city knocked down the house Mackintosh shared with his wife and collaborator Margaret Macdonald, but its ethereal interiors were preserved and reassembled in a wing of the Hunterian (see below), a perfect gem of a museum run by the University of Glasgow.

## GREAT GALLERIES

The **Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum** on Argyle Street is as impressive without as it is within. It's a brooding,



baroque confection in that infernal red sandstone you see so much of in Glasgow – the kind of place, perhaps, that Lucifer and his fallen angels knock up at the end of Book I of *Paradise Lost*. In a good way. The **Gallery of Modern Art** on Royal Exchange Square is housed in a fine neoclassical building on one of the city's most elegant quads. The best exhibit is outside the front door: a statue of the Duke of Wellington on



Above, meringue and summer fruits at Kember & Jones. Top, the Seona Reid Building at the Glasgow School of Art on Renfrew Street. Left, the main stairway at 15 Glasgow hotel

horseback, invariably embellished with a plastic traffic cone for a hat. A plan to raise the plinth in order to prevent pranksters from clambering up and replacing the duke's headgear whenever it gets removed was abandoned in 2013 after public outcry and many awful puns ('i-cone-ic', 'cone-troversial', etc).

## CABINETS OF CURIOSITIES

The **Hunterian** comprises several exhibition spaces scattered about the University of Glasgow. Together, they are a vast *Wunderkammer* that runs a weird gamut from extinct marine arthropods and pickled foetuses to the ineffably lovely nocturnes of James Abbott McNeill Whistler.

## ONE-MAN SHOW

If you have time to visit just one museum in Glasgow, then it must be the **Burrell Collection** off Pollokshaws

Road. Shipping supremo Sir William Burrell personally assembled more than 8,000 objects with a combination of magpie eclecticism and unerring good taste – Tang dynasty porcelain, medieval stained glass, Mughal carpets, exceptional works by Degas, Manet and Cézanne. This is one of the great single-collector museums, possibly only rivalled by that of Calouste Gulbenkian in Lisbon. It's in **Pollok Country Park**, which, though not in the country, is fairly bucolic by Glasgow standards. After admiring Sir William's knick-knacks, stroll through the park past a herd of shaggy Highland cattle to **Pollok House**, a mini-stately now managed by the National Trust for Scotland. El Greco and Goyas upstairs, tea and scones downstairs.

## EDGY ART

Mention must be made of the city's abundance of contemporary galleries. These began to appear on the edge of the Merchant City in the early 1980s, led by **Transmission** on King Street. Now mixed-use artsy-music-studio spaces – such as **SWG3** in Eastvale Place – are proliferating. Something about Glasgow seems to attract artists from elsewhere in Britain and abroad. Part of the attraction may have to do with the city's utter lack of concern about what anyone from anywhere else thinks of it.

## MUSIC AND DANCE

## WHAT A PERFORMANCE

UNESCO has declared Glasgow one of half a dozen Cities of Music. Some 130 concerts are said to occur here every week. At one end of the spectrum you've got the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** on Claremont Street, the **Scottish Opera** on Elmbank Crescent and the **Scottish Ballet**. The latter is headquartered in a tram depot south of the river on Albert Drive and, winningly, opens its doors to anyone curious about life as a dancer. There are drop-in ballet classes for all comers, including special options for Wee Mice (aged three to five) and Silver Swans (50-plus). At the other end of the spectrum, you've got the petri dish of indie talent that is **King Tut's Wah Wah Hut** on St Vincent Street and the grungy Jamaica Street basement that many say is the best underground techno venue in the world, the **Sub Club**. 'It isn't where you're from, it's where you're at,' says the Subbie's resident DJ Harri.

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# THE EXPERTS

This month's Family adventure Travel advice

EDITED BY STEVE KING & EMMA LOVE



## WHAT YOU WANT CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH POLAR BEARS AND WILD DOGS WHO YOU NEED OLLY & SUZI

Olly Williams and Suzi Winstanley are wildlife-obsessed artists who also lead expeditions to remote places. As artists, they work as a duo, with the intention of documenting 'the fragile equilibrium between man and nature'. They paint and draw on the spot, in real time, when and where they see the rare and exotic creatures that fascinate them. Often the animals, seemingly not content to be mere subjects, act more like collaborators – a bear might contribute a pawprint, for instance, or a crocodile the geometric pattern of its skin, or a pack of wild dogs smears of blood from their fresh kill. Once Olly and Suzi painted a great white shark while submerged in a cage in the middle of the Indian Ocean – actually while they were underwater, that is, and while the shark in question was simultaneously attempting to release them from their inconvenient little metal container. When the artists had been hauled back to safety aboard their boat, they offered the shark a preview of the portrait. The shark rose to the surface and bit a chunk off one corner – then, perhaps unhappy with the likeness, spat it out again. Olly and Suzi met as students at Central St Martin's in 1987. They worked so closely together – 'hand over hand' on the same canvases – that they insisted on graduating with a joint degree. Olly and Suzi merged into Olly & Suzi. Before long they had attracted a devoted following for their wild-animal images, with collectors including Damien Hirst. In the course of their extensive travels they got to know lots of top guides, naturalists and conservationists – and so Olly & Suzi Expeditions came into being, in effect as an extension of their art. Today they specialise in bespoke trips to East Africa and the Arctic. They're serious about what they do, but modest with it. 'Our expertise,' says Olly, 'is in finding experts and taking people to them.' STEVE KING

+44 7796 156087; [www.ollysuziexpeditions.com](http://www.ollysuziexpeditions.com)



The pool at Tranquility Bay. Opposite, from left:  
a Florida beach shack;  
multicoloured mailboxes;  
the smallest post office  
in the USA, at Ochopee



## OUT AND ABOUT IN FLORIDA

Away from the bright lights of Miami and the Technicolor dazzle of Disney World, the winter-sun state is a whirl of salty, swampy, sandy adventure. When you're not tucking into catfish and crab or tailing an alligator through the mangroves, you could be kicking back on a powdery beach or galloping around a Wild West-style cattle ranch

### BEACH CHIC Boca Raton

With every palm tree trimmed and every blade of grass clipped to perfection, the historic **Boca Raton Resort & Club** (doubles from about £145) was designed by the great architect Addison Mizner in the 1920s and is as classy as Florida gets. The original Cloister building, at the heart of the hotel, is built in Andalucian style and gives the Alcázar of Seville a run for its money. But none of this makes the place remotely intimidating; it's fun, laid-back and practically made for children. The on-site Quest Club offers all-day kids' activities including kite-flying, basketball and ping-pong on the Rec Deck, a butterfly garden and – new for 2015 – a FlowRider wave simulator for surf practice. There's even a nightclub, Q, for the over-10s, with a velvet rope and DJs – no grown-ups allowed. Choice is everything: you can stay in a traditional but newly renovated Cloister room,

a Tower room with an incredible view, in the 'old money' Yacht Club or the great-value bungalows at the Beach Club. The three Beach Club pools, one with private cabanas, are practically in the ocean, and the beach itself is one of the best in Florida. The sand is raked twice a day; it has the friendliest beach boys in white shorts and pale-blue shirts; the most comfortable sun-loungers can be set up anywhere along the hotel's half-mile

Beach Club – is fresh and abundant and served with the brightest of smiles.

### LOW-KEY SEASIDE Naples

Over on the west coast and handy for the Everglades is pretty, manicured Naples. It has seven miles of beaches and such a low crime rate the policemen ride around on bikes in shorts. At the **Edgewater Beach Hotel**, a two-bedroom beachfront residence (from about £1,050 a night)

### YOUR BROOD CAN DASH OFF FOR AN IMPROMPTU SWIMMING GALA WITH THE LOCAL KIDS WHILE YOU SINK A BOURBON OR TWO

of sand; the fluffiest white beach towels are on hand; and perfect Mojitos are just a finger-click away. The food – in all 14 of the restaurants and bars, including the swanky tower-top Blue, Lucca, Morimoto, classic American 501 East and the Ocean

comes with a huge living space, amazing views of the Gulf of Mexico and a full working kitchen – invaluable with little ones. There are two lovely pools just steps away from the sand. Piles of beach toys are laid out first thing every ➤

# THE EXPERTS... FAMILY

► morning in imaginative ways, forming a pathway to the sea, an alligator castle or maybe a spade mountain. Older kids can borrow kayaks and paddleboards. A few blocks from the beach is the **Inn on 5th** (doubles from about £135). If Naples has a social heart, this is it. Stylish and elegant (without a monkey or pineapple print in sight), the roof terrace has a little pool and the most coveted sunbeds in town. Across the road, families can spread out at the new Club Level Suites (from about £275), a clutch of smart apartments that are ideal for teenagers who rate cafés and shops over buckets and spades.

On **Naples Pier**, no fishing licence is required, but there's a long list of rules pinned up at the entrance (one rod per person, no jumping in to save your iPhone when you drop it Instagramming the sunset). There's a lively local scene: everyone from photographers and paramours to beat-boxing teens, Cuban anglers and preppy property tycoons congregates here on a Sunday. You'll find three generations of families casting off, pro fishermen sharing tackle with toddlers, and society ladies slipping off their diamonds to descale their catch in the gutting sinks.

**SWAMP CRITTERS** The Everglades In the Everglades, it's not whether you want to get wet but how wet you want to get. For rip-roaring action on an airboat (the classic flat-bottomed rig propelled by a massive fan at the back), head to **Captain Doug's** – but make sure you slap on suncream and wear the ear-defenders provided. Children can take the helm in the lagoons, but flying through the narrow avenues within the mangroves – dripping with fishing spiders and curious raccoons – is best left to the professionals.

A more offbeat option is a tour of the backwaters with **Captain Steve's Swamp Buggy Adventures** in the Big Cypress National Preserve. You scale a 10ft ladder to sit in what is essentially a big metal crate lashed onto monster-truck wheels as it slowly crawls, lurches and lollops across the bottom of the swamps. Driver Otis says he has never lost a passenger – at least 'not accidentally'.

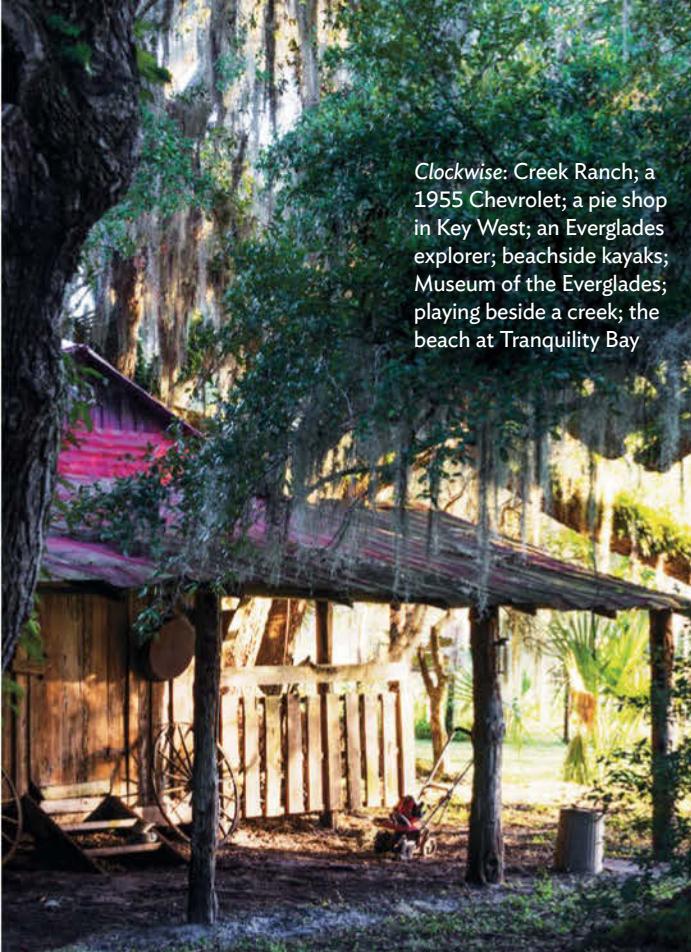
Budding naturalists can get up close and personal with the surroundings on



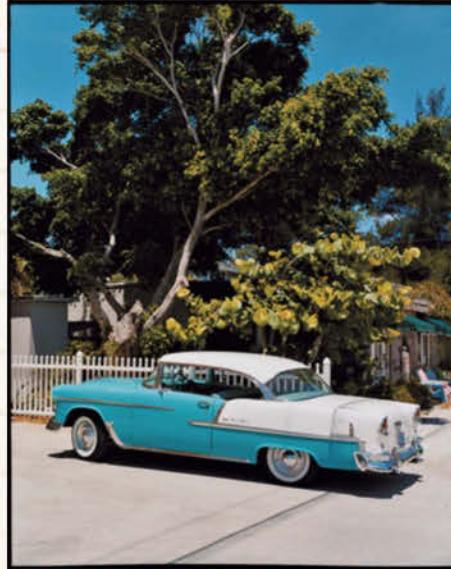
an eco-kayak trip with **Captain Charles Wright**. Gliding gently through the waterways and ducking under the old-growth cypress boughs, with only the occasional splash of a paddle breaking the silence, children may spot a rare orchid, find themselves nose-to-nose with an alligator or, if they are super-lucky, catch the flick of a panther's tail.

**GRAB A CRAB** Everglades City Everglades City is no Key West, and thank goodness for that. Not so much a city as a swamp hamlet with barely 600 residents, its low-level shacks and houses cluster around the only western entrance to the Everglades National Park. This is the real Florida, where your brood can dash off for a swamp-buggy race or impromptu swimming gala with the local kids while you sink a bourbon or two. It's also the stone-crab capital of the world. Go in February for the **Everglades Seafood Festival**, which draws 10,000 Floridians. A great place to eat nearby is **Joanie's Blue Crab Café** in Ochopee. Kids will be excited by a menu

full of creatures – crab cakes, alligator tail, blackened catfish, frogs' legs – and the place looks like it's straight out of a movie. A guitarist slurs moody tunes, there's beer on ice in honesty cooler boxes, and the waitresses are stuck in 1952. A notice handwritten by Joanie advises those in search of fast food to go to Miami or Naples – both, she says, are '50 miles and half a century away'.



Clockwise: Creek Ranch; a 1955 Chevrolet; a pie shop in Key West; an Everglades explorer; beachside kayaks; Museum of the Everglades; playing beside a creek; the beach at Tranquility Bay



## COWBOY KICKS Lake Hatchineha

Perish the notion that central Florida is exclusively about Disney. Less than an hour by car from Orlando are ranches, citrus farms and sleepy small towns. And within this time warp is **Creek Ranch**, a 1,400-acre working cattle spread that offers guests a real cowboy experience. Owned by the Black family, it is grander than most ranches, with a colonnaded, two-storey plantation house called The Bunkhouse in a grove of palmettos and orange trees. You have to book the entire property, from about £3,100 per night. For that you get seven bedrooms in the main house – including the red-and-white ‘Uncle Baby’s Room’ with a deck overlooking vast Lake Hatchineha – plus three more in a rustic cabin nearby. The family’s collection of antiques, art and books fills the cosy sitting room alongside sink-into sofas, log-piled fireplaces and stacks of board games. The family will call ahead to plan your menus: the chef can whip up everything from kids’ favourites (mac-and-cheese, bangers and mash) to barbecued steak and Southern-style shrimp.

Cut the children loose for lasso lessons, archery and trap-shooting with the ranch hands. Experienced riders can strap on chaps and join the cowboys driving the 400-head herd, while novices mosey along on gentle horses to spot deer, wild turkeys and alligators. On Lake Hatchineha, even

but the hotel itself is utterly beautiful, its whitewashed cottages sitting on a beach of blinding white sand on the Gulf Coast side of the Keys. It’s also totally unspoilt. No matter how busy the place is, the exotically landscaped family pool (there’s another one just for adults) never seems crowded and the beach is often deserted. Bedrooms are in condos, many right on the sand, decorated in pale pastels, with top-of-the-line kitchens and gorgeous decks.

Iguanas roam the property as if they own it, and although there is plenty for you and your kids to do – paddleboards, kayaks and jet-skis virtually outside the door, snorkelling from the reef (arranged

## YOU CAN JOIN THE COWBOYS DRIVING THE HERD OR MOSEY ALONG ON GENTLE HORSES TO SPOT DEER, WILD TURKEYS AND ALLIGATORS

the youngest can have a go at catching blowfish; back in the barns, they’ll love feeding calves out of oversized bottles. Over-12s can zip around on sturdy all-terrain vehicles, then pile aboard the swamp buggy that navigates shallow creeks to the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes for the best bass-fishing around. There are bikes, canoes, and kayaks for quiet exploring, and rocking chairs on the porch in which to sip cocktails and watch the sunset. After dinner, a local storyteller will enthrall your kids with tall tales while toasting s’mores around a roaring fire.

## ISLAND ESCAPE Marathon Key

About two hours’ drive south of Miami, **Tranquility Bay** (doubles from about £145) feels more like the Caribbean than the USA. The crowd is not especially fancy,

through Deep Blue Dive) and visits to the Turtle Hospital a mere 100 yards away – the joy of Tranquility Bay is how well it lives up to its name. You could easily spend a fortnight here without ever lifting your head from a book. The food is simple and wholesome, with great salads and wraps (plus oversized Piña Coladas) at the laid-back TJ’s Tiki Bar, right on the water, or a charming, old-fashioned dinner at the only slightly more formal Butterfly Café.

## GETTING THERE

**British Airways** ([www.ba.com/florida](http://www.ba.com/florida)) offers a seven-night fly-drive holiday from Heathrow to Miami from £659 per person, including Avis car rental.

*Reviews by Lydia Gard, Marion Laffey Fox and Jeremy Wayne*

# THE EXPERTS... ADVICE



**Q** I will be attending a wedding in Scottsdale next month, but have never been to Arizona before. Can you recommend some interesting sights and a good road trip in the area?

**A** The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art is the permanent home of one of James Turrell's magnificent and mysterious Skyspaces, a work entitled *Knight Rise, above*. Try to visit around sunset, when you'll experience the most dramatic change in light. If you're interested in architecture, take a tour of Taliesin West, formerly the winter home of Frank Lloyd Wright and now the main campus of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. It's a 25-minute drive from Scottsdale and open to the public, with daily tours available for about £20. And if you're looking for more of a road trip, then the small city of Sedona is a two-hour drive north of Scottsdale. The town and its stony environs have been the dramatic backdrop to countless Hollywood westerns over the years. It's also wonderfully rich in Native American history, and attracts an unusually high number of visitors of the crystal-handling, UFO-sighting, extraterrestrial-welcoming variety. This is something you'll understand better when you're there yourself, gazing at the Milky Way as if you were in an IMAX cinema, only it's bigger and better and more beautiful.



MATTHEW BUCK  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
PRODUCER

**Q** I am about to go to Moscow for the first time. Where is a good place to get authentic Russian food?

**A** At its best, Russian food is a wondrous feast, something meant to be enjoyed with friends. A dinner table will be laden with an array of hors d'oeuvres or *zakuski*: caviar with blini; *salat Olivier* (Russian potato salad); mushrooms in sour cream; pickled herring 'in a fur coat' – that is, covered in a vinaigrette of grated beetroot; *pirozki* – dainty pies filled with meat or cabbage; and of course bottles of cold, cold vodka to make toasts with. For this Tolstoyan epic of a dinner, try the panelled halls of Café Pushkin. The ambience is unabashedly 19th-century but the menu offers a contemporary take on the Russian classics. I'm afraid it will cost you a bomb, but nowhere in Moscow is cheap: that's just the way it is. While you are in town, be sure to sample some of the other interesting cuisines of the former USSR. My absolute favourite is the warm and spicy food of Georgia, which is part Mediterranean, part Middle-Eastern. Go to Suliko if you want cosiness and comfort. Or for an utterly authentic Georgian meal, head to Dukhan Chito-Ra. It's out of the way, on Ulitsa Kazakova, but surprisingly cheap by Moscow standards – and the *khinkali* (meat dumplings) are the best north of the Caucasus.



JONATHAN BASTABLE  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

**Q** I am looking for an adventure holiday in Asia and would like to visit somewhere with a range of scenery and activities. Do you have any suggestions?

**A** Mongolia may not spring to mind as a holiday destination, but its vast landscape encompasses green hills and desert plains. You can kayak down the beautiful Orkhon Valley River, ride a camel across the sand-dunes of the Gobi Desert or trek from camp to camp on small but sturdy Mongolian ponies. Ursa Major Geolodge in the Orkhon Valley has views like no other. Situated on a spectacular plateau (keen photographers will be in seventh heaven), it's home to the largest telescope in Mongolia, and with 250 clear days a year, the night sky is breathtaking. In the desert, stay at luxury eco camp Three Camel Lodge and sleep in traditional handmade gers (Mongolian yurts); conveniently, despite being in the heart of the South Gobi Province, it's only an hour and a half from Dalanzadgad Airport. From the lodge you can drive and then hike to see the famous Khavtsagai petroglyphs, rock engravings from the Bronze Age, or drive the short distance for a picnic in front of the Flaming Cliffs at sunset.



ELEANOR LAMBERT  
EDITORIAL INTERN

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW BUCK

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Gazing across the vast Pacific Ocean, Villa Paraíso in La Reserva private estate is the ultimate jungle hilltop hideaway. Located in Manuel Antonio, home to one of the world's most beautiful beaches, this five-bedroom designer villa has it all. Simply exquisite, this is the ideal home base for a luxury tropical adventure.



## WEDGEWOOD HOTEL & SPA VANCOUVER, CANADA

00 1 604 689 7777

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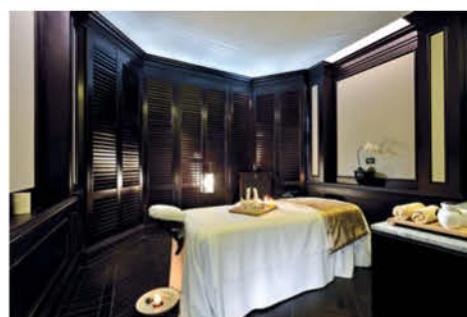


## PIAZZADISPAGNA9 ROME, ITALY

00 39 06 6992 1458

[condenastjohansens.com/piazzadispagnag](http://condenastjohansens.com/piazzadispagnag)

Moments from the Spanish Steps in one of the city's most famous squares, Piazzadispagna9 is a contemporary boutique hotel, art and design gallery. Choose from one of six individually decorated rooms, relax in the exclusive lounge, indulge in the intimate spa for two and admire the exciting art surrounding you.



## THE YIHE MANSIONS NANJING NANJING CITY, CHINA

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## THE BAKER HOUSE 1650 NEW YORK/LONG ISLAND, USA

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## COWORTH PARK BERKSHIRE, ENGLAND

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Dorchester Collection's luxury country house hotel and spa. Sumptuous rooms and suites, exquisite restaurants and an eco-luxury spa with pool and treatments to relax and invigorate. Sunday to Friday leisure breaks from £280 ppn B&B and a bottle of Champagne. See website for special packages.



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Mykonos island is the most vibrant island of the Aegean Sea; whitewashed buildings, sandy beaches and clear blue waters make this island unique. Mykonian Mare is ideally located two miles from Mykonos town centre, very close to Aghios Stefanos beach, offering amazing views and breathtaking sunsets.

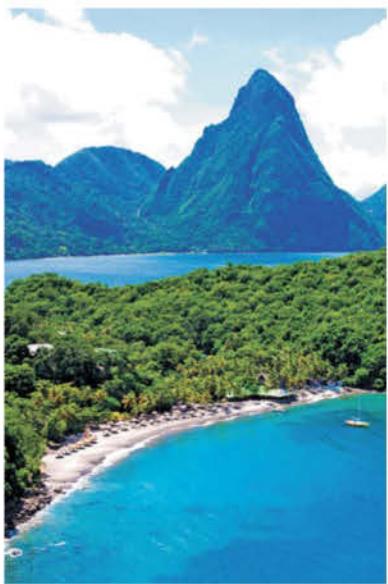


## ONE&ONLY REETHI RAH NORTH MALÉ ATOLL, MALDIVES

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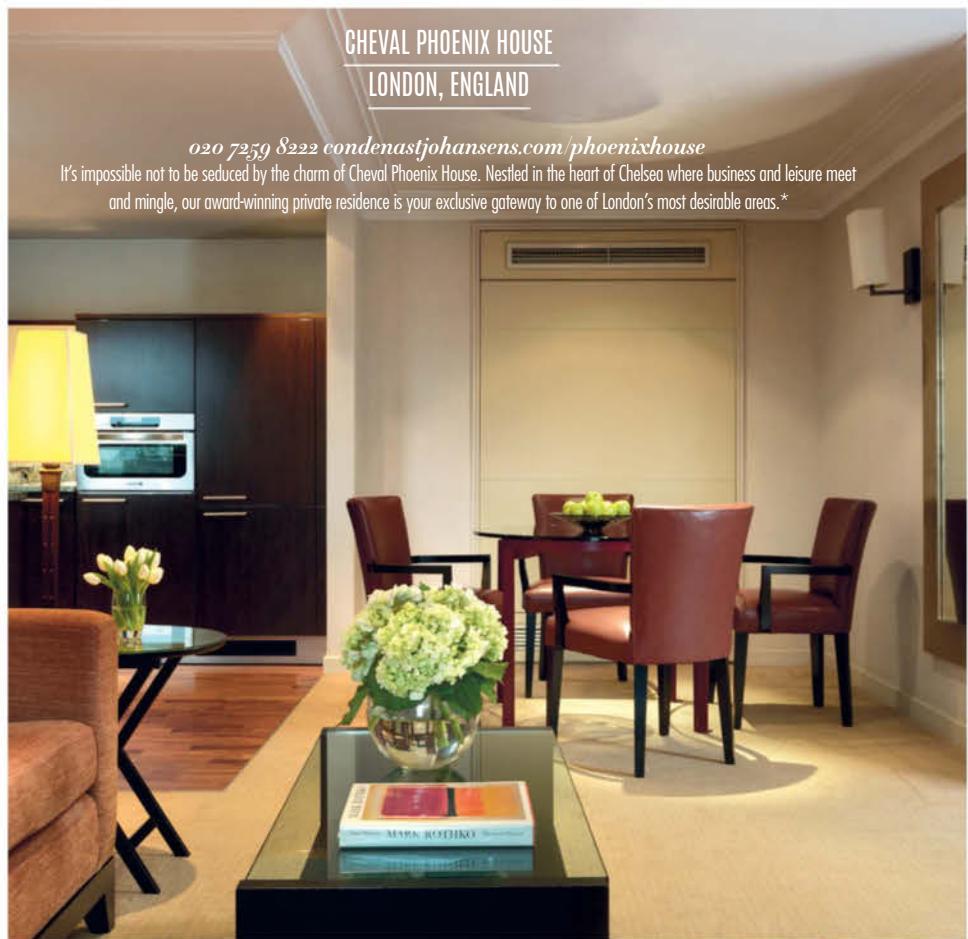


## ANSE CHASTANET ST LUCIA, CARIBBEAN

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Jade Mountain is an architectural marvel celebrating St Lucia's stunning scenic beauty, set high above a 600-acre estate with two beaches. The 24 open-walled Sanctuaries are grand sweeping spaces, each with an extravagantly sized private infinity pool floating out to amazing views.



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\*not eligible for reader offer

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# WHERE ARE YOU?

C'MON, RACE YOU. On a bike you can cover the 1,200 metres of this teakwood bridge in just a few minutes, but it's probably best to take your time, absorb the atmosphere and try not to pedal over the side. Monks cross to reach a nearby temple; students walk to and from the local university, women make their way to market. Legend tells that an entire forest was felled to construct the 1,086 pillars in the middle of the 19th

century. The image was taken by James Tye, who recalls, 'To photograph it at first light I caught a moto-taxi before dawn, and at the lake persuaded a fisherman to take me out in his longtail boat. There was a clear, cloudless sky so that the horizon slowly turned magenta and then orange before the sun appeared. With no wind the water was perfectly still and, in the half-light, it was difficult to see where the bridge

supports stopped and the reflection began. Moments later the sun broke over the horizon and we were passed by dozens of similar fishing boats, silently paddling under the bridge and out onto the lake to fish.'

*Where are you? RICK JORDAN*

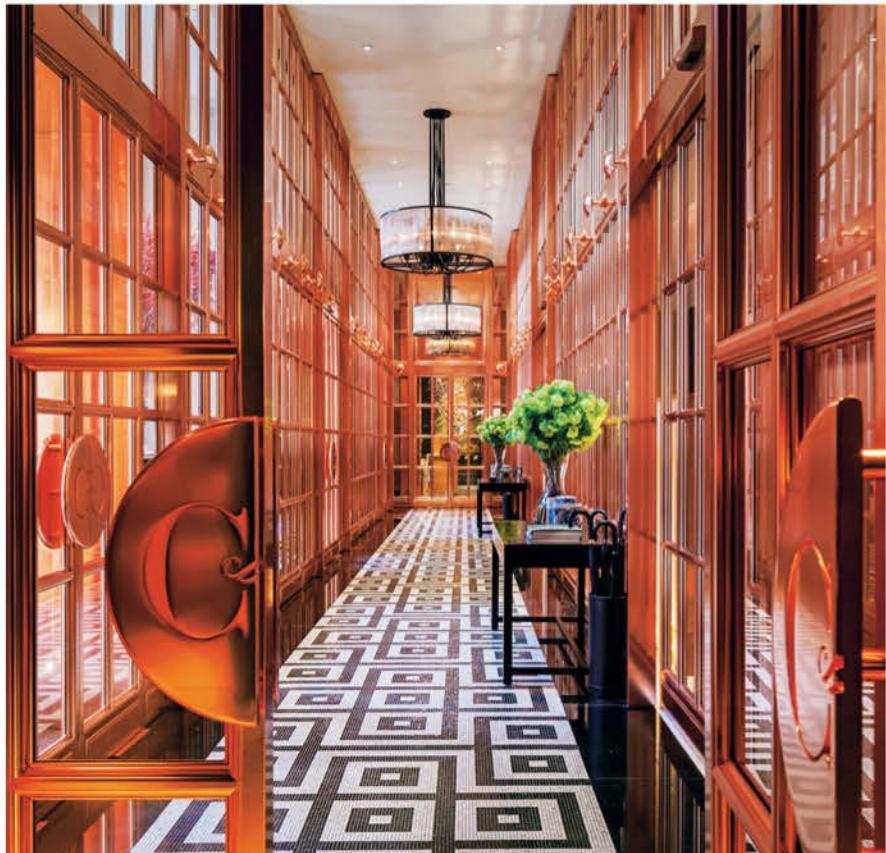
To enter, identify the bridge where the photograph was taken. Correct answers will be placed in a random prize-draw. For competition rules and prize details, please turn the page





PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES TYE

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Enter this month's Where Are You? competition and you could win a five-night stay at Rosewood London. The prize, worth approximately £3,500, includes accommodation for two people in a Deluxe Room with daily English breakfast and one three-course dinner for two with wine in Holborn Dining Room. The holiday is subject to availability and must be taken by 31 December 2015; 31 December 2014 and 14 February 2015 are excluded. *For more details, contact Rosewood London (+44 20 7781 8888; [www.rosewoodhotels.com/london](http://www.rosewoodhotels.com/london))*

## HOW TO ENTER



Identify the location, *left*, and send in your entry to arrive by 31 January

## COMPETITION RULES

1. Entries for the Where Are You? competition can be sent on a postcard, by email or online (stating your full name, address and telephone number), and must correctly identify the place described according to the instructions given. 2. Entries must arrive no later than the last day of the month on this issue's cover. 3. The Where Are You? competition is open to readers of Condé Nast Traveller who are 18 or older on the date of entry, except for employees of

Condé Nast Publications, participating promotional agencies, contributors to Condé Nast Traveller, and the families of any of the above. Entries by post should be sent to: Where Are You? competition, Condé Nast Traveller, Vogue House, 1 Hanover Square, London W1S 1JU. Email entries should be sent to: [compcntraveller@condenast.co.uk](mailto:compcntraveller@condenast.co.uk). To enter online and for full terms & conditions, visit [www.cntraveller.com/competitions](http://www.cntraveller.com/competitions)

## OCTOBER'S WINNER

The winner of October's competition is Abigail Daniel of Scarborough, who identified the location below as Cheonchuksa Temple in Seoul, South Korea. She wins a holiday for two at The St Regis Mauritius Resort.



PHOTOGRAPHS: JAMES TYE/IMAGEBRIEF

## DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF INDIA

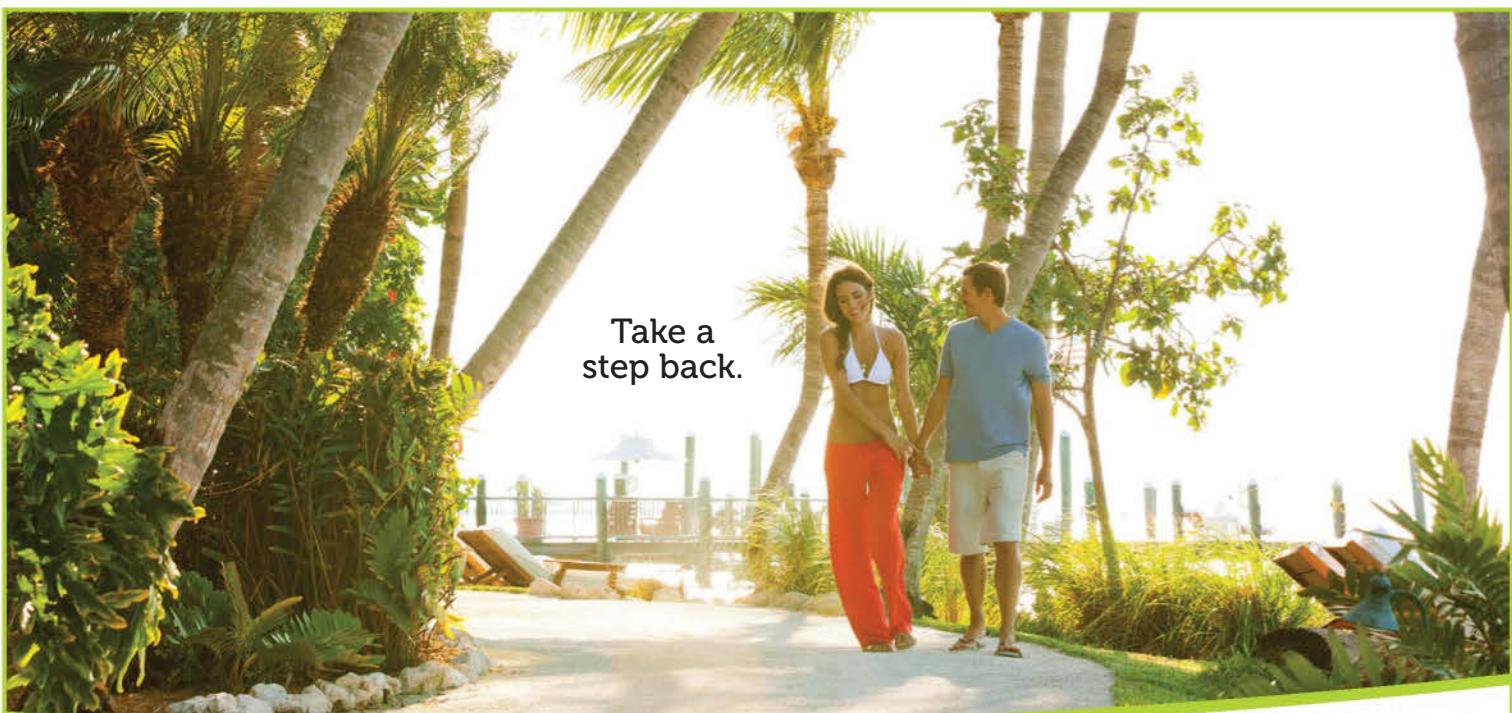
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**T**HE THREE INCREDIBLE CITIES of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur form India's Golden Triangle and make for a wonderful introduction to this mesmerising, unforgettable country. They contain a wealth of cultural and historic sights, from magnificent palaces and forts carved out of sandstone to lively bazaars filled with jewellery, spices and fabrics, as well as the most beautiful tomb in the world, the Taj Mahal. One of the best ways to experience this region is with **ITC Hotels**, whose five-star properties are renowned for their comfort, design, food and service, and whose tailor-made itineraries allow guests to see India at their own pace. *Condé Nast Traveller* readers have the exclusive opportunity to save 15 per cent on ITC's six-night Golden Triangle itinerary, with complimentary breakfast and a 20 per cent discount on any other food and beverages. Return flights from London to New Delhi are included, as are taxi transfers. The offer must be booked at least seven days in advance, and is valid until 30 June 2015.

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PHOTOGRAPH: TOM PARKER



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# HONEYMOON

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PROMOTIONS

Main image: Vanda Villa Guest  
Bedroom at The Sanchaya on the  
picturesquely beautiful Indonesian  
island of Bintan



Clockwise from top: Iconic city view room at Shangri-La hotel at the Shard; Room at the Wild Rabbit in the Cotswolds; Dish at the Wild Rabbit; The Pig on the Beach, Dorset; The Skypool at the Shangri-La; Interiors at The Pig on the Beach.

# FIRST NIGHTS



## LONDON

Shangri-La hotel at the Shard, London is surely one of the sexiest places in the world to spend the first night of married life. Its 'Romance in the Clouds' package includes an Asian-influenced suite with floor to ceiling windows and panoramic Thames views from your freestanding bathtub with gorgeous Acqua Di Parma goodies at the ready. Honeymooners enjoy an in-room, three-course meal with a bottle of Deutz Rose NV Champagne, an indulgent breakfast in bed and a bouquet of flowers. If you can drag yourselves away from your suite, don't miss a dip in the infinity

pool on level 52 (the highest in London). **Honeymoon package from £700 per couple; 020 7234 8088, [shangrilacom/london](http://shangrilacom/london)**

## DORSET

The latest addition to The Pig family, The Pig on the Beach is a glorious restaurant with rooms overlooking old Harry Rocks in Dorset. Perfect for foodie couples, everything in its greenhouse restaurant is sourced within a 25-mile radius. Couples will love The Bothy, a romantic dovecote tucked away in the kitchen garden with a four-poster bed and freestanding bath. And don't miss a post wedding massage in The Shepherd's Huts with glorious Bamford products.

## POP UP honeymoon



1.



2.



3.



5.



4.



6.



7.

1. WIEDEN SHADES, £97, SCARLETOFSOHO.COM; 2. MARL SWEATER, £165, JACK SPADE, 83 BREWER ST, LONDON (020 7734 4768); 3. ACUBENS PANT, £145, SHOP.REPLAY.IT/EN; 4. WATCH, £3,910, WEMPE.COM; 5. POLKA DOT SWIMMERS, \$24, TRASHNESS.COM; 6. 24-HOUR BAG, £135, SWIMS.COM; 7. TRAINER, £50, HUMMEL.NET



**Cheap and Cheerful room from £119 per night. The Bothy from £219 per night; 0845 077 9494, [thepighotel.com](http://thepighotel.com)**

## THE COTSWOLDS

For a relaxed first night in just about the poshest pub with rooms you can conjure, The Wild Rabbit in Kingham is a fusion of calming Cotswold stone and roaring log fires, beckoning you to relax and give in to your beautiful surroundings. It's just the place for a couple to snuggle up after their big day. Book The Rabbit, the most luxurious room with a four-poster bed hewn from logs. **Doubles from £110 per night. The Rabbit from £275 per night; 01608 658 389, [thewildrabbit.co.uk](http://thewildrabbit.co.uk)**



## FRANCE

The south of France is a no brainer for minimooners with its easy sophistication. The recently renovated Tiara Miramar Beach Hotel & Spa in Theoule-sur-Mer is undeniably chic. Nestled on a private creek and secluded beach away from the hubbub of Nice, Cannes and St Tropez, its 60 rooms, suites and one private villa all have panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea. The impressive Tiara Spa cocoons honeymooners. Come in the height of summer to enjoy the creekside restaurant Moya with its beach bar, seafood bbq and ambient DJ tunes. Hire a convertible and explore hot spots like Antibes, just a 30-minute scenic drive. **Classic Hillside View rooms from 160 euros (£126) with breakfast; +33 4 9375 0505, [miramarbeachspatiara.hotels.com](http://miramarbeachspatiara.hotels.com)**

## MALLORCA

Mallorca insiders have been coming to Soller for years. This fine old fishing village ensconced in a fold of the Tramuntana Mountains is twinned with the Port of Soller with its sandy beach, and a venerable old tramline links the two. Perched on a cliff over the port, Jumeirah Port Soller brings five-star luxury to this idyllic scene with 120 airy sea or mountain facing rooms and suites with private balconies and terraces. For ultimate privacy, the new Suites Es Port is a stand-alone 'casita' perched on a rock surrounded by pines and ancient olive trees and nearly 360-degree views across the port. White and deep blue interiors blend rustic touches of the Med. Honeymooners can hide themselves away, only emerging for sensuous spa treatments in the Talise Spa, or to sample the Balearic cuisine in a choice of two restaurants.

**A Superior Mountain View costs from 300 euros (£237) per night with breakfast. The Suite Es Port costs from 2,250 euros (£1,774) per night with breakfast; +34 97 163 7888, [jumeirah.com](http://jumeirah.com)**

## VENICE

Following the flashbulbs and elegant water taxis across the lagoon during George Clooney's Venetian wedding, who wouldn't choose to honeymoon at Belmond Hotel Cipriani? Perched elegantly on the tip of exclusive Giudecca Island, newlyweds start the day



TRAVELLER PROMOTION  
*honeymoon*

# MINI MOON

Clockwise from top left: Sea view room at Tiara Miramar Beach hotel in France; Dinner on the terrace at Hotel Cipriani in Venice; Mountain views at Jumeirah Port Soller in Mallorca

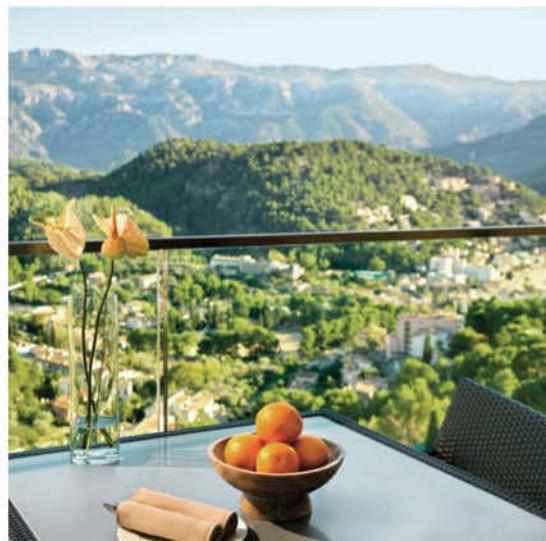
## POP UP *honeymoon*



1. LA PERLA BABY DOLL CORTO SLIP/SHORTS WITH BRIEFS, £897, LAPERLA.CO.UK; 2. MULTI FACETED SHOES FROM £435, ARMANI.COM; 3. DIOR METALLIC SUNGLASSES, £320 DIOR.COM; 4. HACIENDA BIKINI BRIEF £105, ORLEBARBROWN.CO.UK; 5. IPANEMA PATTERN LINEN TOWELS, £120 EACH, FRESCOBOLCARIOLA.COM; 6. BASKET CLUTCH, £395, ANYAHINDMARCH.COM; 7. FREEDOM SANDAL, £26, HAVAIANAS-STORE.COM

here with a private champagne breakfast before indulging in a couples' treatment at the Casanova Wellness Centre before exploring the small islands of Venice by private boat and enjoying exclusive experiences such as a glass of champagne on the rooftop terrace of St Mark's Square's historic Clock Tower. Then head back to the Cipriani for cocktails specially designed by George Clooney, and made by head barman Walter Bolzonella. There's Nina's Passion (named after Clooney's mother) and La Buona Notte (created in honour of his film *Good Night, and Good Luck*) before popping over for dinner at the newly opened Oro restaurant.

**The 'Just the Two of Us' two-night honeymoon package costs from £3,501 per couple; 0845 077 2222, [belmond.com](http://belmond.com)**



TRAVELLER PROMOTION  
*honeymoon*

# PRIVATE ISLAND

## THE PHILIPPINES

Luxury tour operator, Scott Dunn, knows The Philippines well these days, it's an island nation that remains less well travelled than many of its neighbours. A three island-hopping honeymoon begins on Boracay Island with a stay at the Shangri-La Resort overlooking the white sands of Puka Shell Beach, then on to Pangulasian Island, known locally as 'Island in the Sun', before heading on to Pamalican Island, home to the sublime Amanpulo resort.  
**Island-hopping honeymoons start from £3,950 per person for 14 nights with all accommodation, flights, private transfers and two nights in Singapore; 020 8682 5060, [scottdunn.com](http://scottdunn.com)**

## MALDIVES

It's hard to stand out from the crowd in the Maldives, such is the quality of boutique private island resorts. Yet Baros is up there with the best. Honeymooners now enjoy the largest infinity pool in the Maldives, and the culinary skills of new executive chef, Jon de Villa, previously at Nobu Berkeley Street in London. Each villa has a dedicated host making daily suggestions of what couples might like to do for the day. Sunrise champagne breakfast, a spot of yoga with an instructor, a massage at sunset à deux or dinner on a candlelit sandbank? It's a hard choice.  
**ITC Luxury Travel offers a 7-night honeymoon in a deluxe villa with breakfast, sparkling wine, chocolates, one framed honeymoon photo and a candlelit dinner, flights and speedboat transfers from £1,789 per person; 01244 355 527, [itcluxurytravel.co.uk](http://itcluxurytravel.co.uk)**

## BVIS

The British Virgin Islands have some of the most sought after private island resorts in the world,



## POP UP *honeymoon*



now made more accessible by a new VIP air service operated by VI Airlink from Antigua to Beef Island. In celebration of this, honeymooners staying at Peter Island Resort & Spa between January 4th and May 31st, 2015 will fly the new route for free. A member of Preferred Hotel Group (020 7440 0300, [preferredhotelpgroup.com](http://preferredhotelpgroup.com)), this idyllic private island hideaway has three luxury villas, beachfront junior suites just inches from the sea and ocean view rooms. Active honeymooners will enjoy sunset hiking trails, scuba diving, deep sea fishing, kayaking, windsurfing, tennis, culinary workshops and a new learn-to-sail experience, whilst those looking for pure escapism can lounge in a hammock made for two or indulge in aphrodisiac cocktails delivered to the beach. There's even a 'Honeymoon Beach' just for two. **A seven-night honeymoon package costs from £5,600 per couple; +1 616 458 6767, [peterisland.com](http://peterisland.com)**

## PETIT ST VINCENT, THE GRENADINES

The Grenadines are legendary private island territory, home to the likes of Mustique and Bequia. One of its most laidback honeymoon hideaways is Petit St Vincent, ringed by almost two miles of white sand, palms and tree-lined slopes that hide a collection of recently renovated cottages, ready for newlyweds to unplug (there are no telephones or TVs here). Dine with your toes in the sand, skip up to the spa which nestles in the treetops of the island's Marni Hill or charter a boat to explore the Tobago Cays. Come in August and the island is available for exclusive hire.  
**Carrier offers seven nights in a one-bedroom cottage full-board with a private dinner on the beach, 60-minute massage for two, champagne and fruit on arrival, picnic on Mopion Island, a day cruise to the Tobago Cays Sea Turtle Marine Reserve, flights and transfers from £3,360 per person; 0161 492 1354, [carrier.co.uk](http://carrier.co.uk)**

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1. TUMI TEGRA LITE MAX SUNRISE INTERNATIONAL EXP CARRY ON, £695, [UK.TUMI.COM](http://UK.TUMI.COM); 2. MARTIN LINEN SHIRT, £50, [BLUERMINT.COM](http://BLUERMINT.COM); 3. ETHNIC PAISLEY CLASSIC TRUNK £119, [LOVEBRAND.COM](http://LOVEBRAND.COM); 4. MIANSAI BRACELET, £70, [MRPORTER.CO.UK](http://MRPORTER.CO.UK); 5. SHINOLA WATCH, £649, [MRPORTER.CO.UK](http://MRPORTER.CO.UK); 6. ESPADRILLES BY CASTANER, £80, [MRPORTER.CO.UK](http://MRPORTER.CO.UK); 7. ORLEBAR BROWN AT HARVEY NICHOLS, JOSH DARK BROWN LEATHER SANDALS, £130, [HARVEYNICOLAS.CO.UK](http://HARVEYNICOLAS.CO.UK); 8. LIBERTY PRINT EYE MASK, £45, [OTISBATTERBEE.COM](http://OTISBATTERBEE.COM)

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\*Mandatory caddies at cost. \*\*For certified divers.  
†At selected resorts. †Minimum 3 night stay.  
Gov & Administration fees apply. \*Free from Dec '14



# SECLUDED BEACH



## SEYCHELLES

Frégate Island Private in the Seychelles is the newest addition to the Oetker Collection. This private island in the middle of the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean has just 16 residences with their own luxurious terrace, large private infinity pool and jacuzzi. The island is the size of Monaco, yet honeymooners have a choice of seven stunning beaches with the option to 'exclusively hire' their own. **Private pool residences cost from 4,400 euros (£3,472) per night (minimum 7 nights) including breakfast on Anse Victorin beach, Pomme d'Amour Spa Ritual at Rock Spa, exclusive use of beach for a day, tea on Glacis Cerf, dinner in the Tree House and a boat tour of the island; +27 21 5570 366, [fregate.com](http://fregate.com)**

## THAILAND

Chic Collection's Hide & Chic portfolio is an inspirational source of secluded beach hideaways. For example, Ammatara Pura is set on Koh Samui's secluded Lamai Beach in Thailand. Designed in the style of a 1,200-year-old Thai palace, 18 villas grace the lush grounds and lead directly onto the white sand beach. After dark, honeymooners can enjoy candle-lit Thai dinners on the beach or a seafood barbecue under the stars. **Garden view villa at Ammatara Pura starts from £372 per night with breakfast; 020 3735 5033, [chiccollection.com/ammatara](http://chiccollection.com/ammatara)**



## SRI LANKA

Jungle Beach Resort on Sri Lanka's northeastern coast is rustic chic at its best with a secluded, untouched beach to rival the best. This beautifully rugged resort, with its tree-house like setting, has a cool jungle vibe with teak walkways to the dining areas, and beach cabins mere steps from the water.

Honeymooners can enjoy a romantic dinner around a bonfire dinner on the remote beach. The hotel has just bought two horses, so couples can now go riding along the beach. **Beach Cabin from £155 per night inclusive of breakfast. This is the highest category, so it's affordable, understated, rustic chic at its best; +94 26 567 1000, [ugaescapes.com/junglebeach](http://ugaescapes.com/junglebeach)**

## POP UP *honeymoon*



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1. BIKINI, £157, AND 2. SILK BUTTON-UP, £290, BOTH WEAREHANDSOME.COM 3. GLARCE AT HARVEY NICHOLS, FREMANTLE GENTLE GREEN AVIATOR STYLE, £205, HARVEYNICHOLS.CO.UK; 4. BIRKENSTOCK ARIZONA IN METALLIC GOLD, £74.95, OFFICE.CO.UK; 5. COACH, SMOOTH LEATHER PAGE BAG RED CURRENT, £395, COACH.COM; 6. LORELEI EARRINGS, £291 JENNYPACKHAM.COM



## *the world's your OYSTER*

Honeymoons are the perfect excuse to finally book that once-in-a-lifetime trip. We've fallen in love with Scott Dunn's portfolio of the unforgettable

**H**oneymoons should be the most memorable, magical holidays ever taken, a concept integral to Scott Dunn's honeymoons. Everyone's idea of a perfect trip is different: some couples will be in 100% tropical beach-flop mode, while others dream of mad adventures, a dash of culture, a super-cool road trip or a little bit of everything. From close-to-home mini-moons to far-flung maxi-moons, Scott Dunn has got the world covered (in style).

Reading Scott Dunn's dedicated honeymoon brochure has us dreaming of walking down the aisle again. From beautiful stilted villas in the Maldives and the pristine beaches of the Caribbean to seeing orang-utans in the wild in

Borneo, exploring the temples of Cambodia, travelling through the lush green hills of Sri Lanka and experiencing the emotive plains of Africa, the options seem infinite. And they are. The published destinations, properties and itineraries are just a snapshot – a honeymoon Polaroid of what Scott Dunn is capable of organising. The company stands by a totally tailor-made ethos, making pretty much anything possible. Combinations that you've previously dreamed of but dismissed can now become a reality; maxi-moons of several weeks can be arranged down to the finest detail and extras galore can be included wherever in the world you travel. Enjoy being swept away by Scott Dunn's utterly contagious can-do attitude.



Clockwise from top:  
Lion Sands Ivory  
Lodge in South  
Africa; a seduced  
beach spot; Huka  
Lodge in New  
Zealand; Rekero  
Camp in Kenya

### TAILORED TO THE INDIVIDUAL

Consultants all spend a month of every year travelling to ensure the best knowledge and understanding of each destination. The result is outstanding product knowledge and second-to-none service. They also all have a genuine passion for travel and come bursting with ideas based on each client's criteria: budget, type and timings. In addition, Scott Dunn runs a Honeymoon List Service, a great alternative to the traditional frying pan, toaster and breadboard. Friends and family can help elevate your honeymoon from romantic holiday to out-of-this-world trip. Yes, dreams really can come true....

For further ideas, information or to request a complimentary honeymoon brochure, contact Scott Dunn's honeymoon consultants on 020 3582 8269 or visit [scottdunn.com/honeymoons](http://scottdunn.com/honeymoons).



## SWEDEN

For a winter honeymoon adventure, the original Icehotel in Swedish Lapland celebrates its silver anniversary (25 years) this winter. Couples can tie the knot in the beautiful Ice Chapel surrounded by snow-covered fells adjacent to the frozen River Torn, and then spend the first night of their honeymoon in a secluded wilderness chalet or on an ice bed in an Art Suite, carved with magical designs of forest fairies or chess figurines. Snowmobile across frozen lakes or take an evening husky safari in search of the Northern Lights for memorable honeymoon adventures. **Discover the World offers three-night Icehotel honeymoons from £1,089 per person with flights; 01737 214291, [discovertheworld.co.uk/icehotel](http://discovertheworld.co.uk/icehotel)**

## NEVADA, USA

For an exhilarating Wild West honeymoon, Mustang Monument Wild Horse Eco Resort is one in a million. Set in the wide-open Nevada plains with a dramatic backdrop of mountains, the resort is home to mustangs saved by animal lover Madeleine Pickens. Honeymooners have a choice of hand-painted luxury tepees or opulent safari cottages, both looking out across the vast Nevada scenery where the wild horses roam. By day, newlyweds can embark on their bespoke horse-riding adventure to the remote Goshute Valley for a romantic picnic. By night, dinner is served in their candle-lit dining tepee, followed by champagne and marshmallow toasting around a crackling fire. Wrap yourselves in a native American blanket and star gaze to your heart's content. **Steppes Travel offers five nights at Mustang Monument in a luxury tepee with all meals, drinks, excursions, car hire and flights from £2,545 per person; 0843 778 9926, [steppestravel.com](http://steppestravel.com)**

## SRI LANKA

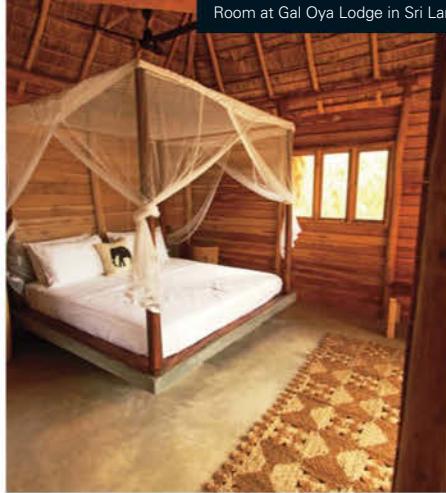
Black Tomato has made it their business to send honeymooners on audacious yet utterly spellbinding adventures from hunting



Clockwise from top left: The Icehotel in Sweden; Tepee at Mustang Monument in Nevada; Room at Gal Oya Lodge in Sri Lanka

with eagles in Mongolia to gorilla trekking in Rwanda. Sri Lanka is the location of one of their most spectacular escapes. Here, newlyweds can climb Adams Peak, in the midst of Tea Country, through the night to catch the sunrise over the verdant rolling hills, and enjoying a champagne breakfast on the mountain peak. Couples can also explore Gal Oya National Park, one of the countries least explored national parks, staying at the newly-opened Gal Oya Lodge, taking intrepid water safaris on the lake and treks into the surrounding jungles to access remote indigenous communities hidden in the forest.

**From £4,819 per person including all accommodation, flights, private transfers, guide throughout and activities; 020 3642 6650, [blacktomato.com](http://blacktomato.com)**



## POP UP *honeymoon*



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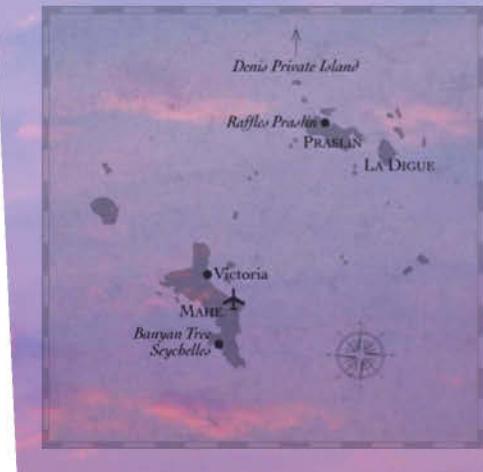


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1. LAVENHAM X LMNH WITHERSFIELD GILET, £185, [LAVENHAMJACKETS.COM](http://LAVENHAMJACKETS.COM) 2. RIMOWA TOPAS FOUR WHEELED SUITCASE, £840, [SELFRIDGES.COM.CO.UK](http://SELFRIDGES.COM.CO.UK); 3. ORLEBAR BROWN FELIX BRICK REMELANGE £75, [ORLEBARBROWN.CO.UK](http://ORLEBARBROWN.CO.UK); 4. ORLEBAR BROWN WHIPPET NAVY OH FRONT £120, [ORLEBARBROWN.CO.UK](http://ORLEBARBROWN.CO.UK); 5. LACE LOAFER, £105, [SWIMS.COM](http://SWIMS.COM)



# Love AFFAIR

An island-hopping heaven off the east coast of Africa, the Seychelles is the go-to zone for a loved-up escape. Let Turquoise Holidays be your guide

**T**here are no two ways about it – the Seychelles is a haven for honeymooners. We're talking silky soft shores stroked by rippling turquoise tides, villas so good you'll want to move in permanently and a community that does things right (there are full-on conservation and breeding programmes for their beloved giant tortoises). Dry season is April to September, though you'll be hard pushed to find a better year-round paradise. Turquoise recommends the 13-hour flight via the Middle East, (or push the boat out and go via South Africa for a safari-beach honeymoon). And with a scattering of 115 islands to choose from – split into the Inner and Outer Islands – don't just stop at one.



  
the seychelles islands

Clockwise from top:  
Romantic dinner at  
Raffles Praslin;  
Seychelles paradise  
beach; Denis Island;  
The beach at Banyan  
Tree; View from the  
villa at Banyan Tree



## Inner Islands

### Mahé

Home to capital Victoria, expect Creole culture, open-air markets, botanical gardens and an animated nightlife. Diving is excellent – spot whale sharks amidst gigantic shoals of fish and colourful coral reefs, and make a pit stop at popular Beau Vallon beach.

### Turquoise recommends...

#### Banyan Tree Seychelles

Capacious villas come with dapper round-the-clock butlers. Signature restaurant Saffron serves up a fusion of Creole and South-East Asian – think succulent seafood and exotic spices.

### Praslin

Expect bath-warm azure waters, sugar-soft sand and tropical greenery. Here, look out for ultra-rare coco de mer palms and Black Parrots. Visit neighbouring island La Digue where bicycle or ox cart are your choice of transport (cars are strictly banned), though the giant tortoise colony has right of way.

### Turquoise recommends...

#### Raffles Praslin

Raffles Praslin has set tongues wagging since it flung open its doors three years ago. Villas boast thickly cloaked interiors and the king-size beds are probably the comfiest you'll ever sleep in. Slip into the spa for stress-busting massages.

## Outer islands

Outer coralline islands are playground paradises for water babies. Indulge in out-of-this-world fly-fishing and hunker up together for starry-eyed picnics by twilight in secret coves. Come here for total chill-time.

### Turquoise recommends...

#### Denis Private Island

Prepare to go key-free, phone-free and carefree. 25 handsomely thatched cottages are dotted amongst the coconut trees, kitted out with furniture crafted from fallen timber. Denis harvests most of its food itself – that's fresh.



## ONE TO WATCH

- Look out for hot new opening Six Senses Zil Pasyon – opening summer 2015

For more information or to book, call the Turquoise Indian Ocean team on 01494 678 400 or email [enquiries@turquoiseholidays.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@turquoiseholidays.co.uk) Turquoise also hosts its wedding gift list service online, free of charge, with a full time dedicated coordinator. For information, visit [turquoiseholidays.co.uk](http://turquoiseholidays.co.uk)

... Queensland, Australia ...

# ISLANDS OF PLENTY

There are island experiences all over the world. And then there are Great Barrier Reef island experiences. Discover the difference, with Qantas

*Clockwise from this image:* Whitehaven Beach; qualia, Windward plunge pool; One&Only Hayman Island; Catseye Beach, Hamilton Island; Qantas A380; Qantas A380 Premium Economy; Dolphin pool, Hamilton Island

**W**hat do sea-kayaking excursions, swathes of swirling sand banks, breakfasting with koalas, adrenaline-fuelled game-fishing, scenic helicopter flights, wallaby beach guests, swimming with minke whales, walking through a million-year-old tropical rainforest and lounging on elevated terraces overlooking arguably the most beautiful World Heritage-listed Site on earth all have in common? What else, but Queensland's Great Barrier Reef islands? And they're all, incidentally, fabulously easy to experience, with Qantas, the premium airline to Australia to explore all that Queensland has to offer.

That's not to say that these island idylls don't tick all the quintessential romantic requisites: thousands of acres of aquamarine seas; glorious ocean vistas from every room, spa and private plunge pool; decadent downtime on huge down-filled cushions; cockle-warming year-round sunshine; plenty of secluded beaches for private gatherings; miles of soft sands to wander along, hand in hand, or simply relax together in a hidden cove.

They also, however, take island escapism to a whole new level. Simply pick your personal paradise (or two) – anything from a remote yet luxurious retreat to cosy canvas tents somewhere eco-friendly and idyllic – and ensconce yourself in this watery wonderland. Perhaps the world-famous Hamilton

Island, a gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, with its renowned restaurants, wide range of accommodation and huge selection of activities: the ultimate tropical getaway (Qantas conveniently flies direct from Brisbane to the Great Barrier Reef Airport, four times a week in peak season and bi-weekly for the rest of the year). Or the

equally famous One&Only Hayman Island, an idyllic private island resort that is ideal for a honeymoon getaway, its stylish elegance and beautifully appointed accommodation reflecting the harmony of nature, set against the backdrop of the Coral Sea. Further north, amid the magical waters of the Great Barrier Reef, yet just an

“ ”

*Cruise Whitsundays organise a great trip out to the reef - the standard tour includes snorkelling, a semi-submersible and an underwater viewing platform. Some stunning additional extras include helicopter rides from the pontoon and introductory dives. No experience necessary, you literally have your hand held the entire time by friendly and very calming staff. Victoria, Travel Designer, [austravel.com](http://austravel.com)*





## READER OFFER

**Austravel** and **Qantas** are offering readers a tantalising nine-day luxury experience designed to enable you to savour the full beauty of the Great Barrier Reef islands. Take off to paradise with two nights at Pullman King George Square, four nights at qualia (including a day tour that takes in Whitehaven Beach) and three nights at One&Only Hayman Island, all for just £3,279 per person, departing on 1 March 2015 (a saving of £380 per couple). This special offer includes return international flights with Qantas and all domestic flights/transfers. For further details and reservations, please call 0808 274 3541 or visit [austravel.com/discover-queensland](http://austravel.com/discover-queensland)

hour and a half from Cairns, the secluded Orpheus Island is encircled by 11km of immaculate turquoise coastline and comprises 1,368 hectares of pristine National Park and surrounding World Heritage-listed Marine Park. Nearby the allure of Magnetic Island, between Cairns and the Whitsundays, is equally difficult to resist with its 23 pristine bays and beaches (many, rather fabulously, only accessible by boat), while on Green Island you can stroll through the lush cool rainforest; laze on stunning white coral sands; lie by the inviting swimming pool or snorkel the reef straight from the beach.

Prefer your paradise without parameters? Sail around this stunning seascape of clear blue waters, past pure white beaches and endless deserted tropical islands. Charter your own yacht with Sunsail



and experience the ultimate freedom of fancy; travel in style with Ocean Freedom, who offer a more intimate snorkel and dive experience; feel your adrenaline surge aboard a maxi racing yacht as it slices through crystalline waters. Sail, jet-ski, ocean kayak, scuba dive: the Great Barrier Reef is, after all, a region of over 900 islands and coral cays, with 2,300 kilometres of wild, unique nature. As if that wasn't enough, it also runs the entire length of the Queensland coastline. Which

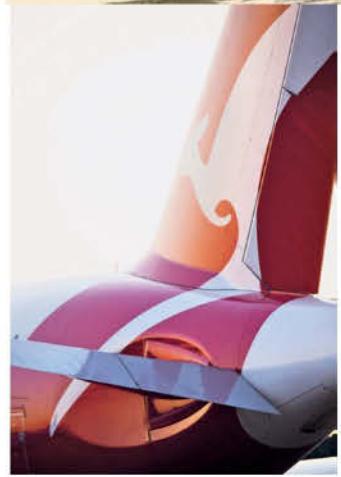
means that it couldn't be easier to combine island idyll with any one of Queensland's other unique experiences. Stop over in Brisbane and soak up some contemporary city sights before flying to Hamilton Island. Take a scenic flight over the Great Barrier Reef to see it in all its glory, before setting down on an isolated cay. Fly from Orpheus direct to Cairns (just an hour and a half away), and discover the unique nature of the Daintree Rainforest, the oldest rainforest on



**While staying at One&Only Hayman Island, the hotel can arrange a private boat to take you to a deserted sandbar where you can snorkel and get up close to wild turtles - a really unique experience.**

**Claire, Travel Designer, [austravel.com](http://austravel.com)**

earth. Head to Port Douglas to swim with dwarf minke whales on the ribbon reefs; snorkel with turtles at a sand cay, dive amongst coral gardens overflowing with colour and life, or watch endangered sea turtles nest on a beach off the coast of Bundaberg. Or simply revel in a rare insight into Robinson Crusoe's desert island existence as you explore endless deserted hideaways; in the Whitsunday Islands alone, there are 66 virtually untouched, unspoiled and ready to be 'discovered'. Whatever, wherever, one thing you can be sure of in the Great Barrier Reef islands: your escape will be paradise personified. Please visit [entraveller.com/promotions/queensland](http://entraveller.com/promotions/queensland) for more information



## TRAVEL WITH THE EXPERTS

### Pamper yourself in paradise with two of Australia's most iconic names in travel.

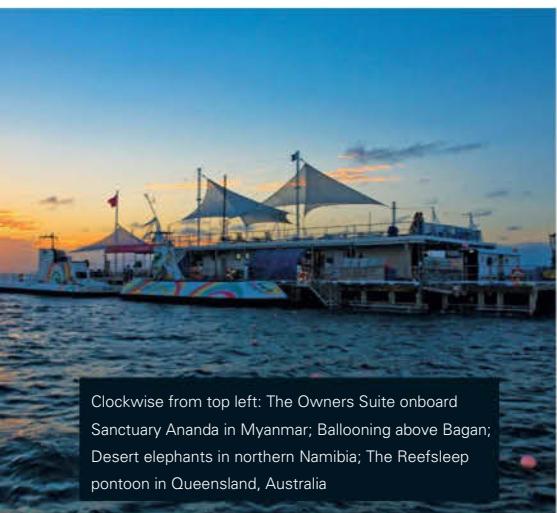
The leading authority on Australia, Austravel Travel Designers have explored Australia extensively and pride themselves on their insider knowledge and unrivalled expert service, using their hidden gems and top tips to make your holiday that extra-bit special. Whether you are looking to dive the depths a deux, take to the skies for a once-in-a-lifetime seaplane flight, wine and dine surrounded by water or experience an up-close-and-personal encounter with a rare indigenous creature, Austravel will know just the place, and tailor your itinerary to meet your personal expectations.

And what better place to start the pampering than your flight? Treat yourself to Qantas's award-winning Premium Economy cabin in the private 35-seat upper deck. Think more room and more comfort; self-serve snack bars offering refreshments around the clock; extra-wide seats and leg rests – and a fabulous Rockpool-inspired Premium Economy menu (which you can choose from before you take off with Select on Q-Eat) accompanied by the finest wines. Better still, when you book your flight you can book onward flights thanks to Qantas's unrivalled domestic network, including up to 10 daily flights from Sydney or Melbourne to Cairns (the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef area), and onward flights from Cairns to Brisbane, Townsville and Hamilton Island. You can also choose to add the Qantas Walkabout Pass when you book your international tickets, allowing you to enjoy the Qantas domestic network at attractive prices: you can see more of the Sunshine State for less as there are 12 Qantas Walkabout Pass destinations to choose from in Queensland alone. You'll be sure to fall in love with Qantas.



TRAVELLER PROMOTION  
*honeymoon*

# ADVENTURE



Clockwise from top left: The Owners Suite onboard Sanctuary Ananda in Myanmar; Ballooning above Bagan; Desert elephants in northern Namibia; The Reefsleep pontoon in Queensland, Australia

## QUEENSLAND

Queensland is full of honeymoon adventures including spear fishing with the Walker Brothers at Cooya Beach, walking the Scenic Rim Trail in the Great Dividing Range and swimming with humpback whales. One of the most exhilarating places to stay is out on the Great Barrier Reef with Reefsleep. Couples are invited to sleep under the stars in 'swags' – cosy tents with clear viewing panels, a comfortable mattress and snug bedding, 40 nautical miles from the Whitsundays coast at Hardy Reef,

where the stargazing is incredible. **All meals, travel and accommodation costs £183 per person per night;** [cruiseuhitsundays.com/gbra\\_reefsleep.aspx](http://cruiseuhitsundays.com/gbra_reefsleep.aspx)

## **YANMAR**

Sanctuary Ananda is the latest boutique river cruiser to grace the rivers of Myanmar. This all-suite ship blends contemporary design with authentic Burmese style – think lacquerware and parasols. Couples will find slippers and dressing gowns in the suites which have been made in the local villages. All 21 suites have floor to ceiling windows and balconies. For the height of honeymoon luxury, the Owner's Suite is vast.

## POP UP *honeymoon*



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1. TOURIST PURPLE SUITCASE £295, VICTORINOX.COM; 2. TAILORED COPACABANA SMALL BLUE, £145, FRESCOBOLCARIOCA.COM 3. VICTORINOX, LONG NAVY SLEEVE MOVEMENT POLO, £80, VICTORINOX.COM; 4. WANT LES ESSENTIELS DE LA VIE, £200, AND 5. TODS FOR MR PORTER, GOMMINO SUEDE DRIVING SHOES £250, BOTH MRPORTER.COM



In line with Sanctuary Retreats ethos of 'luxury, naturally', itineraries include classic highlights such as the teak U Bein Bridge at sunset and the Ananda Temple in Bagan (after which the ship is named) as well as a trip to the local spice market in Pakokku, and even bison cart rides. More than enough reasons to toast one another afterwards with a Bellini cocktail made with local kaffir lime. **A 3-night cruise on Sanctuary Ananda from Bagan to Mandalay starts from £758 per person; 01242 546 609, [sanctuaryretreats.com](http://sanctuaryretreats.com)**

## NAMIBIA

Namibia can seem like many countries in one with its extreme landscapes. Wilderness Safari's alternative safari/beach combo begins at Serra Cafema camp where rustic meets lux in its eight thatched villas on the banks of the Kunene River in the extreme northwest. After thoroughly chilling out in this peaceful environment, honeymooners board Wilderness Air for the brand new Hoanib Skeleton Coast camp located in the private Palmwag Concession straddling the Skeleton Coast National Park. Here you explore the true desert oases found in the Hoanib floodplains, home to desert-adapted elephants, gemsbok and springbok, or take a scenic flight to the Skeleton Coast with its seal colonies and endless beaches. **Rainbow Tours offers 9-night honeymoons at a combination of both properties from £4,995 per person with flights, transfers, most meals, guide and park fees; 020 7666 1250, [rainbouthours.co.uk](http://rainbouthours.co.uk)**



# AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP *to Queensland*

**C**ondé Nast Traveller readers can win an exclusive 10-night trip for two to Queensland, staying in luxurious accommodation in a classic itinerary in the Cairns and Great Barrier Reef region. This iconic part of Queensland is the only place in the world where two World Heritage-listed sites sit side by side; where the reef meets the rainforest. Start your journey with Qantas, the 'Spirit of Australia', where you'll be pampered in Qantas' award-winning Premium Economy; with extra-wide seats and leg rests, and outstanding food and wine, your holiday will start the moment you step on board. Then explore the underwater wonderland of the Great Barrier Reef, discover the world's most ancient surviving rainforest, the Daintree, and indulge on a tropical island where your every whim is met.

Claim your prize with Australia specialist Austravel, who are perfectly placed to introduce you to the superb diversity and attractions of Queensland.

To enter this competition, visit:

[cntraveller.com/promotions/queensland](http://cntraveller.com/promotions/queensland) Terms and conditions apply

## FINER DETAILS:

The prize is for two people and includes the following:

- Two nights' accommodation at Pullman Cairns International Hotel
- Full-day Outer Barrier Reef Cruise with Quicksilver
- Three nights' accommodation at Sea Temple Resort & Spa Port Douglas including breakfast
- Two nights' accommodation at Sea Temple Resort & Spa Palm Cove including breakfast
- Three nights' accommodation on Orpheus Island, with the following island inclusions:
  - North Suite accommodation
  - All gourmet meals
  - Selected Australian wines and beer
  - Daily Orpheus experience - snorkelling, fishing, island cruise
  - Unlimited use of motorised dinghies, kayaks, paddle boards, catamaran
- Return Premium Economy flights with Qantas, the 'Spirit of Australia'

Main image:  
Orpheus Island,  
infinity pool



Clockwise from top left: Belle Mont Farm on St Kitts; Pool villa at Six Senses Zighy Bay in northern Oman; Handmade Lalibela scarves from Ethiopia; Temples in Bali, Indonesia

# TWIN

## ETHIOPIA & OMAN

For an amazing mix of cultures, Ethiopia and Oman will leave honeymooners spellbound. The Blue Nile Falls and the Biblical paintings on the walls of the ancient monasteries of Lake Tana are highlights of a tour of northern Ethiopia, which is followed with a flight to Dubai for the drive across the border into the Sultanate of Oman's northern Musandam Peninsula and a relaxing stay at Six Senses, Zighy Bay, renowned for its earthy yet luxurious villas with private pools and personal butlers and top-notch Six Senses Spa. Thrill-seeking couples can arrive by tandem paraglide straight into the resort.

**Scott Dunn offers a 7 night tailor-made itinerary of Ethiopia and 6 nights at Zighy Bay in Oman from £5,425 per person including all accommodation and flights, private transfers, excursions and guiding in Ethiopia and some meals; 020 8682 5070, [scottdunn.com](http://scottdunn.com)**

## BALI & VIETNAM

Founded by hospitality legends Adrian Zecha and Hans Jenni, GHM properties are the stuff of honeymoon dreams. The Chedi Club Jimbaran Bay opens in southern Bali in early 2015 with 34 butler-serviced pool villas and is an exotic combination with the Nam Hai Hoi An in Vietnam, a resort inspired by 2,500 years



of history, the grandeur of the Tu Doc royal tombs of Hue and feng shui philosophy.

**Scott Dunn offers 5 nights at The Chedi Club Jimbaran in Bali and 5 nights at The Nam Hai Hoi An in Vietnam, from £4,800 per person with flights and private transfers; 020 8682 5060, [scottdunn.com](http://scottdunn.com)**

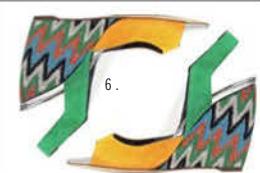
## ST KITTS & NEVIS

The Caribbean offers many twin-destination opportunities, but one that makes most sense is the neighbouring islands of St Kitts and Nevis. Be one of the first honeymooners to stay at the new Belle Mont Farm on St Kitts, a no-kids retreat where couples enjoy luxurious guesthouses with panoramic views. Each contains its own plunge pool, roll top bath on the terrace, scroll-down cinema screens for late night movies and wicker fruit baskets delivered fresh to their door every morning, this spot is ideal for a romantic escape. The estate's farm-to-table restaurant has 100 percent organic dining, whilst the Mill Bar is



housed in the top of an old sugar mill. After the short hop to Nevis, compare and contrast with the delights of old honeymoon favourite, Montpelier Plantation & Beach. **Caribtours offers 4 nights at Belle Mont Farm and 3 nights at Montpelier Plantation from £2,299 per person with flights, transfers and lounge passes at London Gatwick; 020 7751 0660, [caribtours.co.uk](http://caribtours.co.uk)**

## POP UP *honeymoon*



1. BLAIZE SWIMSUIT £285, [AGENTPROVOCATEUR.COM](http://AGENTPROVOCATEUR.COM); 2. BRICK BELLAGIO, WHEEL CABIN TROLLY £399, [BRICS.IT/UK](http://BRICS.IT/UK); 3. QUEENDOM OF OEUF SLEEPING FLOWER LADY IN COCOON SCARF, £155, [ITSQOO.COM](http://ITSQOO.COM); 4. IMANY ALAIN MIKLI SUNGLASSES, £322, [DAVIDCLULOW.COM](http://DAVIDCLULOW.COM); 5. PRINGLE SCOTLAND, SOFT CLUTCH, £450, [PRINGLESCLAND.COM](http://PRINGLESCLAND.COM); 6. ZARA SHOES £455, [RUPERTSANDERSON.COM](http://RUPERTSANDERSON.COM)



Clockwise from top:  
Pool deck at Baros;  
Bedroom at exclusive  
Baros Residence; Lounge  
on your very own sand  
bank; The Lighthouse  
Restaurant at Baros

## *away from* ATOLL

Not just a brilliant winter sun option, Baros beguiles couples and honeymooners from January to December every year

**B**aros is the ultimate atoll escape, a place that captures the true essence of the Maldives. This small exclusive coral island (just 20 minutes by boat from Malé) feels a world away: a tiny speck of paradise encircled by sugar-white sand and a crystal-clear lagoon. An intimate resort with a laidback vibe, this is one of our all-time favourite honeymoon hideaways.

### NATURAL BORN VILLAS

We fell in love with the villas at first sight. There are 75 in total, a mixture of Water and Beach Villas (some with pools), all natural on the outside and stylishly contemporary on the inside. The Beach Villas are idyllic but the romance of the Water Villas with their huge wooden sundecks and steps leading down to the lagoon are hard to beat. Honeymooners with a penchant for the penthouse should check into the super-exclusive Baros Residence with its private pool, enclosed garden, four-poster daybed and personal butler.

Baros is simply blissed-out beach chic at its best, a place where days drift by in a languid haze of sun, sea, sand and spa. The latter is the perfect post-wedding chill-out zone and with four spa suites for couples you can be massaged, scrubbed and wrapped, same time, same place. There are also fantastic facials, a brilliant selection of signature treatments, a strong Ayurvedic influence and loads of yoga sessions (sometimes conducted on your own private sandbank).

From languishing on land to wallowing in water: the surrounding ocean is half warm bath, half giant aquarium, another reason Baros features on our honeymoon hit list. The house reef teems with a pantone-coloured army of tropical fish as well as the occasional inquisitive turtle. Snorkelling off the island is a magical experience but for the keen diver, beyond the Baros reef are 30 world-class dive sites all within a 50-minute boat trip.

### ULTIMATE GOURMET

And no honeymoon would be complete without world class cuisine (particularly if you've been on a pre-wedding diet). Guests can indulge in exquisite dishes at The Lighthouse Restaurant, served under its unique sail-like tented roof; succulent steaks and fresh fish are Cayenne Grill's speciality and Lime's melt-in-the-mouth creations get Asian cuisine spot on. There are drinks a plenty with the Lighthouse Lounge the best cocktail-quaffing venue, while cold beers and local live music suit the hammock-swinging Sails. For the ultimate gourmet experience couples can be



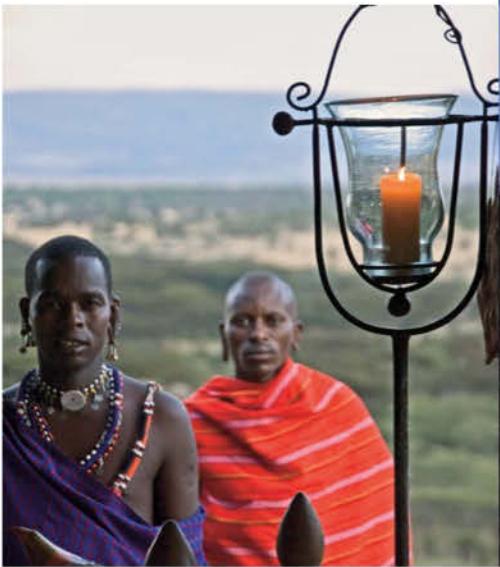
### READER OFFER

To book Baros, Maldives simply call leading luxury tour operator ITC Luxury Travel on 01244 355 477 and take advantage of their 10% early booking discount when booking 90 days in advance plus one complimentary night. Prices from £1,789 per person based on 2 adults sharing a Deluxe Villa for 7 nights including daily breakfast, return economy class flights and speedboat transfers. Saving up to £345 per person. Valid for travel completed between 1 May - 30 Sep 2015.

whisked away by boat for a sandbank supper of seafood and pink champagne under the stars. Whoever said romance is dead?

For further information visit [baros.com](http://baros.com)





TRAVELLER PROMOTION  
*honeymoon*

# TWIN



Clockwise from top left: Maasai warriors in Kenya; Luxury tents at Ol Seki Hemingways Mara camp in Kenya; The pool at The Sanchaya in Bintan; Vanda Villa's bedroom at The Sanchaya

## JORDAN & DUBAI

For two contrasting sides of the Middle East, Jordan and Dubai is a beguiling two-trip honeymoon. Begin at the InterContinental Amman where the concierge will organise trips to the ancient lost city of Petra. Honeymoon suites are decorated with rose petals, a candle lit bath and a heart shaped cake. Take the short flight to Dubai to unwind at the InterContinental Dubai Festival City. Honeymooners enjoy couples spa treatments in a VIP suite and romantic dining at the excellent Reflets par Pierre Gagnaire.

**For more information please visit**  
[intercontinental.com](http://intercontinental.com)

## KENYA & ZANZIBAR

A safari followed by an Indian Ocean beach flop is a classic honeymoon combo. Ol Seki Hemingways Mara Camp is an intimate safari camp. Its 10 designer ensuite tents have vast wooden decks with far reaching views of the Mara Plains. Located on a ridge in the private Naboisho Conservancy, honeymooners are far from the density of vehicles in the main Mara Reserve. They can opt for night drives and game walks, moonlit bush dinners and bush breakfasts or listen to tales of hunter gatherer days as told by a local Ndorobo tribe member. Twin this with the new White Sand Luxury Villas & Spa in Zanzibar, set on the white sands of Paje, one of the finest beaches on the island's eastern shores. It's serene and private with earthy tones and unobtrusive architecture, and what's more, it's a sustainable sanctuary. Even The Spa uses local products, namely seaweed, coconut and spices. Each villa has an outdoor bathtub, a rainshower to wash away the sea salt, a rooftop terrace and a starbed for gazing at the Spice Island's starlit skies.

**The Turquoise Holiday Company offers 3 nights on safari at Ol Seki Hemingways Mara Camp with 7 nights at White Sand Luxury Villas & Spa (with upgrade to half**



**board, couples spa treatment and introductory kite-surf lesson) from £3,595 per person including flights and transfers; 01494 678 400, [turquoiseholidays.co.uk](http://turquoiseholidays.co.uk)**



## SINGAPORE & BINTAN ISLAND

For a classic city stopover and chill out honeymoon, Singapore and Bintan are an easy option. Stay at Naumi Hotel, one of the trendiest hotels in downtown Singapore with an aptly named 'Cloud 9' infinity rooftop pool and bar against a panoramic urban backdrop of skyscrapers, national monuments and architectural landmarks. The head off to catch the 55-minute ferry to Bintan for a stay at

the new colonial-style The Sanchaya. This hideaway has just 21 private villas and nine suites on a luxurious beachfront estate. Asian artistry and handpicked artefacts create an elegant ambiance. Down in the wine and cheese-tasting cellars, there's the opportunity to try rare vinous vintages, cheeses and meats from local producers at in-house tastings. The spa and private beach are delightful too. **Small Luxury Hotels of the World offers Naumi Hotel from £218 per night with breakfast, and The Sanchaya from £397 per night with breakfast; 0800 0482 314, [slh.com](http://slh.com)**

## POP UP *honeymoon*



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1. LEON CLASSIC HALF ZIP, £50, [K-WAY.CO.UK](http://K-WAY.CO.UK) 2. QUEENDOM OF OEUFL GIULIA SCARF, £155, [ITSQOO.COM](http://ITSQOO.COM) 3. PRADA AT DAVID CLULOW, £190, 0844 260 0870 4. POLO RALPH LAUREN FOR MR PORTER, SLIM FIT BLEND CHINOS £150, [MRPORTER.CO.UK](http://MRPORTER.CO.UK), 5. MICK CANVAS DUFFEL, £250, [LAPORTEGNA.COM](http://LAPORTEGNA.COM) 6. CLASSIC BIRKENSTOCK ARIZONA WITH LIGHT BLUE SOLE, £74.95, [BIRKENSTOCKS.CO.UK](http://BIRKENSTOCKS.CO.UK)

# TIME IS SO PRECIOUS, SMART COUPLES STEAL IT.



**O**n the beautiful island of Saint Lucia there's a place that's perfect for celebration. Known as *Rendezvous*, its verdant gardens set on a two mile stretch of white sand beach were the inspiration that created this relaxing and intimate hideaway dedicated to the couple.

In today's modern world, couples find it hard to spend quality time with each other. *Rendezvous* provides a perfect setting to reconnect and rediscover life's pleasures together. This intimate resort provides the chance to steal time to relax, have fun and share delicious food, fine wines, activities, spa treatments and of course, first class service. Whatever the two of you imagine yourselves doing, at *Rendezvous* it can come true, including an unforgettable wedding day in the sun.

To create a perfect day as unique as you are, the imaginative *Ever After Collection* is designed to inspire ideas to fit your vision. Imagine a sandy beach on a deserted island, or a candle lit 18th Century ruin, or perhaps even a setting inspired by an Exotic Oasis. On our website, you can custom build your perfect day from a palette of choices designed to create your wedding, your way. To learn more about the *Ever After Collection*, call 0203 096 1608 or visit [www.theromanticholiday.com/everafter](http://www.theromanticholiday.com/everafter)

**Rendezvous**  
The Boutique Hotel for Couples

TRAVELLER PROMOTION  
*honeymoon*

Kuoni  
[kuonic.co.uk](http://kuonic.co.uk)

Turquoise Holiday Company  
[turquoiseholidays.co.uk](http://turquoiseholidays.co.uk)

Abercrombie & Kent  
[abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://abercrombiekent.co.uk)

Trailfinders  
[trailfinders.com](http://trailfinders.com)

ITC Classics  
[itclassics.co.uk](http://itclassics.co.uk)

Carrier  
[carrier.co.uk](http://carrier.co.uk)

Exus  
[exsus.com](http://exsus.com)

Cazenove and Loyd  
[cazlloyd.com](http://cazlloyd.com)

Bailey Robinson  
[baileyrobinson.com](http://baileyrobinson.com)

Audley Travel  
[audleytravel.com](http://audleytravel.com)

Only Exclusive Travel  
[onlyexclusivetravel.com](http://onlyexclusivetravel.com)

Original Travel  
[originaltravelco.uk](http://originaltravelco.uk)

Ampersand  
[ampersandtravel.com](http://ampersandtravel.com)

Scott Dunn  
[scottdunn.com](http://scottdunn.com)

Greaves India  
[greavesindia.co.uk](http://greavesindia.co.uk)

Hayes and Jarvis  
[hayesandjarvis.co.uk](http://hayesandjarvis.co.uk)

Cox and Kings  
[coxandkings.co.uk](http://coxandkings.co.uk)

Africa Travel  
[africatravel.co.uk](http://africatravel.co.uk)

Red Savannah  
[redsavannah.com](http://redsavannah.com)

Elegant Resorts  
[elegantresorts.co.uk](http://elegantresorts.co.uk)

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[frontiertravel.co.uk](http://frontiertravel.co.uk)

# DIRECTORY



BALINESE PAVILION AT THE  
CHEDI CLUB JIMBARAN BAY

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*The Pioneer  
of eco-homes*



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# MOST WANTED

THEA DARRICOTTE uncovers your world



**Tony Conigliaro** is known for his award-winning bar and his newly released book (which takes the bar's name) '69 Colebrooke Row'. It contains a cocktail anthology to make you the perfect host for Christmas. £25, [69colebrookerow.com](http://69colebrookerow.com)



**REGENERATE Enamel Science** is the first ever dental system to reverse the erosion process and regenerate enamel. Toothpaste RRP £10, [selfridges.com](http://selfridges.com)

□ HEALTH & BEAUTY



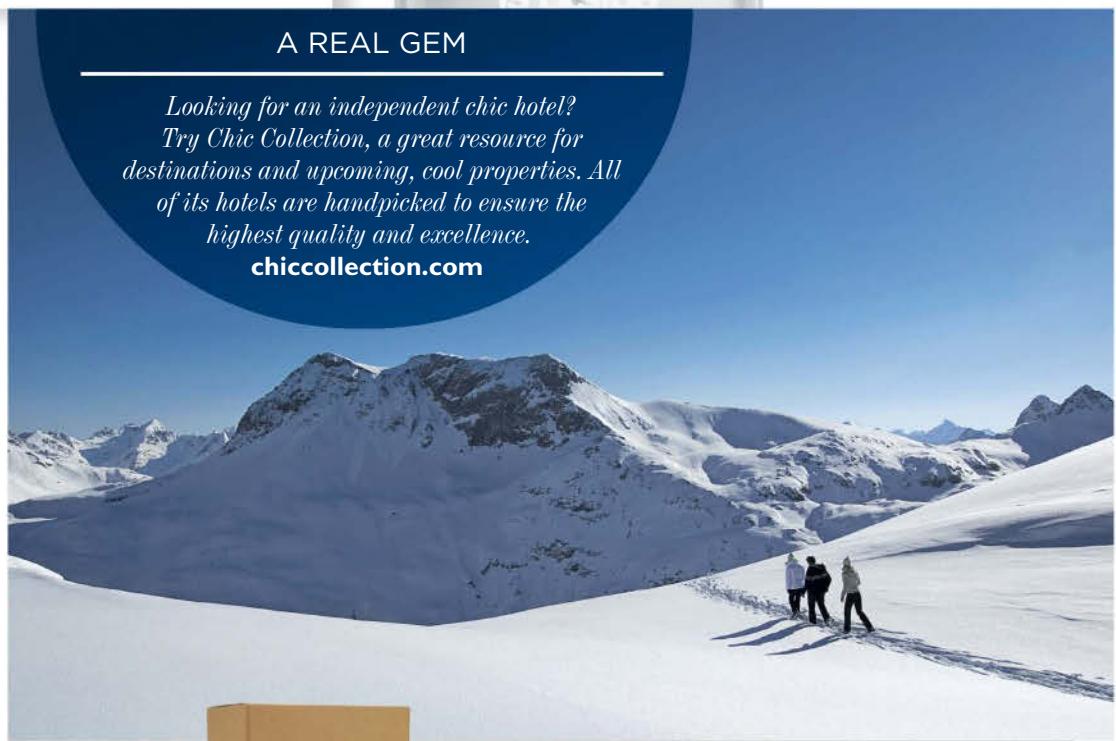
□ HEALTH & BEAUTY

*Beauty sleep has a new helper in the form of la Prairie's Cellular Radiance Night Cream, an intensive night-time treatment to moisturise, refine and restore luminosity to the skin.* £430, [laprairie.co.uk](http://laprairie.co.uk)

## A REAL GEM

*Looking for an independent chic hotel? Try Chic Collection, a great resource for destinations and upcoming, cool properties. All of its hotels are handpicked to ensure the highest quality and excellence.*

[chiccollection.com](http://chiccollection.com)



The Berry Bros. & Rudd Wine Club offers four membership options themed around its history as Britain's oldest wine merchant. Each wine selection caters for the different tastes and budgets of contemporary wine drinkers, whether it's Bourne, Pickering, Napoleon or Wellington. Wine Club Members will receive a case of wine every other month delivered to their door complete with detailed tasting notes and suggested food pairings to impress even your more hard-to-please dinner guests.

Membership starts from £60 per month, [bbr.com](http://bbr.com)

□ DRINK

□ EXPERIENCE

**THE PENINSULA HOTEL'S HOLIDAY AMBASSADOR, SNOWPAGE, IS BACK FOR THE SECOND YEAR TO SUPPORT THE MAKE-A-WISH® FOUNDATION AND TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON ALONGSIDE A SELECTION OF SPECIALLY CREATED FESTIVE EXPERIENCES.**

[PENINSULA.COM SNOWPAGE](http://PENINSULA.COM SNOWPAGE)



□ LUXURY



Dior is famed for perfecting the art of effortless elegance and these pretty earrings play the part perfectly. Simply add to any outfit for instant polish. My Dior earrings in yellow gold with diamonds by Dior Joaillerie £1,650, [dior.com](http://dior.com)

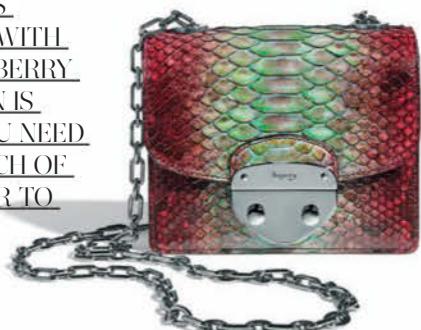
## □ GADGET



KEEN HOBBISTS WILL BE THRILLED WITH THE **NIKON D750** WHICH HAS A 24.3MP FX FORMAT SENSOR (FULL FRAME) FOR BEAUTIFUL IMAGES WITH DETAILS AND ACCURACY AND A STURDY TILT SCREEN TO HELP CAPTURE LIFE AT NEW ANGLES.  
**RRP £1,799.99 (BODY ONLY)**  
**NIKON.CO.UK**

## □ FASHION

**THE GORGEOUS MORGANI MINI WITH CHAIN IN RASPBERRY CRUSH PYTHON IS JUST WHAT YOU NEED TO ADD A TOUCH OF EDGY GLAMOUR TO YOUR WINTER WARDROBE.**  
**£2,700**  
**ASPREY.COM**



## □ FASHION

**MRPORTER.COM** has collaborated with Elton John AIDS Foundation and selected five leading brands to create a capsule collection based on the concept of luxury travel with all proceeds going directly to the Foundation. The range includes a Globe-Trotter classic carry-on suitcase re-worked in blue and red for a modern update and an Armand Diradourian checked navy and red travel blanket and eye-mask made from their signature cashmere. They also make rather perfect Christmas gifts!



As a fan of Alain Ducasse I was overjoyed to hear that his protégé **Christophe Marleix** is now at the helm of The Grill at The Dorchester which has re-opened with the signature Lobster Chowder sitting alongside a range of grill favourites. There will also be an extensive sweet soufflé menu, the first of its kind in London. **020 7317 6531**, **dorchestercollection.com/TheGrill**

## □ LUXURY

Guerlain has opened a new boutique at Harrods Salon de parfums showcasing its Exclusive Collections of perfumes and offering a bespoke service for the first time outside of Paris. Now you have the opportunity to create a unique perfume reflecting your personality from the legendary perfume house. [harrods.com](http://harrods.com)



## □ LUXURY

**FROZEN IN TIME** This **LVCEA** watch in steel with mother of pearl dial and diamonds from Bulgari is irresistibly chic and adds the perfect amount of frosting for this time of year.  
**£4,410**, [bulgari.com](http://bulgari.com)



## □ EXPERIENCE

Don't miss our exciting reader event with **Jo Malone London** to celebrate My Wanderlust, a Home Collection inspired by memories of faraway places curated by Charlotte Stockdale. Join us at the flagship boutique on Sloane Street for an evening hosted by our own Fashion & Beauty Director Fiona Lintott and Celine Roux, Executive Director of Global Product Development for Jo Malone London. There will be champagne, canapés, and an introduction to the new range (not forgetting a relaxing hand and arm massage) before you leave with a bulging goodie bag. £25 fully redeemable against purchase, please call **0370 192 5121** to book for 22 January 2015, 6.30-8.30pm



## Dream Destinations EUROPE-UK



**LA SABLONNERIE HOTEL.** A convivial corner of a peaceful island. Gorgeous gardens, peace and tranquility, birds, butterflies, flowers, horses and carriages – no cars – how could one not enjoy this amazing paradise? You will find this hotel to have a great 'joie de vivre' as well as terrific food. La Sablonnerie has recently received the highly coveted award from Condé Nast Johansen - 'Small Hotel of the Year'. Visit [www.sablonneriesark.com](http://www.sablonneriesark.com) or call 01481 832 061.



**ZURICH  
HOTEL RESTAURANT HELVETIA**  
The boutique hotel Helvetia with its 16 individually furnished rooms is a real jewel among the city's hotels. The family-run and individual hotel and restaurant offer a home from home to business travellers, city explorers and Zurich lovers alike. Phone: 0041 (0)44 297 99 98 Web: [www.hotel-helvetia.ch](http://www.hotel-helvetia.ch)



**Blenheim Cottage** offers tranquil luxury. With farmhouse cooking, woodburner, microbrewery and Master Butcher, everything is in place for a cosy week away. Quite 'Hamper' for a complimentary Oxfordshire food hamper (exp. 01/06/15) [www.oxfordcountrycottages.co.uk](http://www.oxfordcountrycottages.co.uk) +44 (0)7930 165630.



**PORTIXOL**, open all year and located within walking distance to Palma. The rooms are light, spacious, well-planned. Recognized for its food, wines and views, friendly and efficient service, laid back and relaxed ambience with a cosmopolitan mix of guests. Tel: +34 971 27 18 00. Website: [www.portixol.com](http://www.portixol.com)



**The Griffin Inn.** A 16th century inn based in the heart of Sussex. Offering thirteen individually decorated bedrooms, it provides a haven of rest for any traveller. Their renowned restaurant offers a seasonal menu with locally sourced produce and an extensive wine list. [www.thegriffininn.co.uk](http://www.thegriffininn.co.uk) 01825 722890.



**ESPLENDIDO**, a modern vintage hotel, in charming Puerto de Soller. Perfect spot for lazy or active holidays. Enjoy the outdoor pools and sunbeds, and the spa which features an indoor pool, sauna and fully-equipped gym. Bistro serves fresh Mediterranean food. Sunset views from the cocktail bar. Tel: +34 971 63 18 50. Website: [www.esplendidohotel.com](http://www.esplendidohotel.com)



**Deelin Mor Lodge** is a secluded retreat in the midst of the Burren, one of Ireland's most unique areas of outstanding natural beauty. This design led family home, built in the style of an Irish Georgian hunting lodge, accommodates up to 10 people and is perfect for holidays, special occasions or a weekend break. [www.deelinmor.com](http://www.deelinmor.com) Tel: +353 65 708 9009.



An Exclusive Yacht Cruise Experience on The Magnificent Gulet Evita. Offering magical possibilities, discovering the most beautiful and atmospheric destinations in the Turkish Mediterranean. Cruises are customised for guests, ensuring that they enjoy the destinations that best suit their group profile and preferences. [www.boattripturkey.com](http://www.boattripturkey.com) +90 542 731.2358.



**Middleham House** offers a unique and luxurious boutique English country house experience, in the picturesque Yorkshire town of Middleham. It is the perfect destination for family holidays, fairy tale weddings or a myriad of country pursuits. Phone: 0207 733 5716. Website: [www.themiddlehamhouse.com](http://www.themiddlehamhouse.com)



**Resort & Spa Le Dune, Sardinia** is a Delphina resort ideal for families, situated behind a long sandy beach with 6 swimming pools, 10 restaurants and activities and entertainment for all ages. It is located on the north west coast of Sardinia, 1½ hours from either Alghero or Olbia airports. [www.justsardinia.co.uk](http://www.justsardinia.co.uk) 01202 484858.



Come to the Gran Hotel Atlantic Bahia Real, located in one of the most attractive areas of Fuerteventura, right on the front near the stunning beauty of Corralejo Natural Dune Park. This is a hotel designed for the ultimate in relaxation, privacy and luxurious pampering, where personal touch and attention to detail are guaranteed. Tel: +34 928 53 71 53, E-mail: [reservations.bahiareal@atlantishotels.com](mailto:reservations.bahiareal@atlantishotels.com) Web: [www.atlantisbahiareal.com](http://www.atlantisbahiareal.com)



## Dream Destinations EUROPE



**Hotel dei Borgognoni.** Enjoy your sleep at this privately owned hotel. With just a 4 minute walk from the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain, it is ideally located. This Boutique hotel is offering Condé Nast Johansens readers an extra 5% discount on the web rates. Insert code *johansens2013* in the booking engine of the hotel. Visit: [www.hotelborgognoni.com](http://www.hotelborgognoni.com) tel: +39 06 69941505.



**SOLAR DO CASTELO**, Lisbon, Portugal. Romantic boutique hotel within St. Jorge Castle walls, on the top of Alfama. This small unit with medieval remains consists in a noble patio. One of the 5 Heritage Lisbon Hotels Collection. Tel: +351 218 806 050. [solarr.castelo@heritage.pt](mailto:solarr.castelo@heritage.pt) [www.heritage.pt](http://www.heritage.pt)



Welcome to **Galini Hotel and Villas**, your home away from home. Perched on the imposing volcanic cliffs of Santorini, in one of the most beautiful spots on the island, Galini overlooks a cerulean blue immensity with sweeping views of the volcano, the caldera and the Aegean. We invite you, our most welcomed guests, to discover our little paradise. Visit: [www.hotelgalini.gr](http://www.hotelgalini.gr) or Call: +30 22860 22095



**X FLATS** is Your Home Away From Home. It is premium provider of serviced luxury apartments and corporate housing at 5 locations of Istanbul. We present 1, 2 and 3-bedroom fully furnished stylish apartments and boutique living quarters that are accompanied with hotel services and amenities such as complimentary housekeeping and concierge service. [www.xflats.com](http://www.xflats.com) or call +90 212 251 9333.



A stay at **Gangtey Goenpa Lodge** offers an insight into the ancient Kingdom of Bhutan, which to this day remains one of the world's most mysterious and undiscovered destinations in the world. To experience unparalleled luxury, breath-taking views and Himalayan hot air balloon flights visit [www.easternsafaris.com](http://www.easternsafaris.com) or call 00975-1712-9072 or 00975-2-340943.

## Dream Destinations AFRICA & INDIAN OCEAN



**Hotel Dar Zitoune**, a luxurious hotel with 14 beautiful bungalows, 8 suites and 8 stunning tented rooms. The resort features 2 swimming pools, Jacuzzi and offers Hammam massages at the spa. Visit their newly opened 'Veranda' restaurant for spectacular garden views. Tel: 00 (212) 528 55 11 41 website: [www.darzitoune.ma](http://www.darzitoune.ma)



**THE ZANZIBAR COLLECTION**  
Exotic, Luxurious, Zanzibar!  
The Zanzibar Collection is a privately owned collection of beautiful boutique Hotels inspired by the magic of Zanzibar, lying on one of the Top 30 Island beaches in the world. Offering a range of water sports, stunning spas and East Africa's only National Geographic affiliated PADI 5 star Dive Centre. Baraza Resort and Spa was chosen as one of the World's 60 Best New Hotels on the Conde Nast Hotlist. [www.thezanzibarcollection.com](http://www.thezanzibarcollection.com)



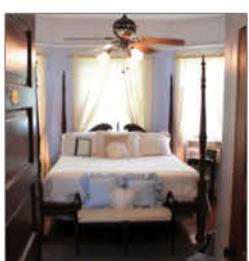
**SUNLUX** collection hotels are positioned in a 'Golden Triangle' that links Cape Town's landmark The Table Bay, within the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront; Sea City's The Point; and the Lost City, nestled in an arid, volcanic crag surrounded by the Pilanesberg big 5 nature reserve, and Zambia's gracious Royal Livingstone, set against the stunning backdrop of Livingstone's Victoria Falls. Each part of the luxury traveller's journey is set to uncover the subcontinent's 'must-see' attractions. En route the new Maslow Hotel, in Sandton City in Johannesburg, one of Africa's most popular shopping destinations and travel districts. Phone: +27 11 780 7810 Website: [www.suninternational.com](http://www.suninternational.com)



## Dream Destinations NORTH AMERICA



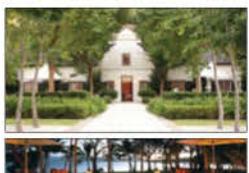
**STONEHURST PLACE ATLANTA**. Located in Midtown Atlanta's arts and business district, this eco-friendly inn is a quick, easy transfer from Atlanta International Airport and onward to many of Atlanta's best places to tour. Atlanta's crown jewel and Global Top Ten Urban Inn, Stonehurst Place is the perfect start or end to a stylish US holiday or business trip. The original 1896 architecture now offers beautifully appointed en-suite rooms and a sophisticated art collection. Prices from £219 include gourmet breakfast, all-day refreshments, parking and wi-fi. phone: +1 404 881 0722 email: [info@StonehurstPlace.com](mailto:info@StonehurstPlace.com) [www.StonehurstPlace.com](http://www.StonehurstPlace.com)



**Eva's Escape** at the Gardena Inn, San Antonio, Texas, is located in the famous King William Historic District, the house was built circa 1905 and is tastefully furnished with antiques and family treasures. Whether enjoying a stroll along the Riverwalk or soaking in one of the antique claw foot tubs, a stay at Eva's Escape will rejuvenate your body and spirit. W: [www.evasescape.com](http://www.evasescape.com) T: +00 1 210 223 5875



## Dream Destinations AUSTRALASIA & OCEANIA



**THE HUKA RETREATS** [www.hukaretreats.com](http://www.hukaretreats.com)  
Three sister properties in South Africa, Fiji and New Zealand – chic and understated statements of exclusivity and esclusiveness, all offering an exceptional hospitality experience to the world's most discerning travellers.

**GRANDE PROVENCE ESTATE**, South Africa, is located in the vineyard and dairy farm of Franschhoek. This 300-year old heritage estate offers award-winning wines, cuisine and art gallery with superb accommodation at The Owner's Cottage and La Provencal. T +27 (0)21 876 8600 E: [reservations@grandeprovence.co.za](mailto:reservations@grandeprovence.co.za)

**DOLPHIN ISLAND**, Fiji offers 14-acres of Pacific private island beauty, romance and luxury 'castaway' time for a max of 8 guests, on an exclusive-use basis.

**HUKA LODGE**, New Zealand, is famed for its natural beauty, legendary hospitality and absolute style since the 1920's. With just 25 rooms within 17-acres of manicured grounds.

Contact: T +64 7 378 5791 E: [reservations@hukalodge.co.nz](mailto:reservations@hukalodge.co.nz) for both Huka Lodge & Dolphin Island reservations.

# Luxury Gift Guide...



**1. BRONTE BAGS** produce a gorgeous range of handmade vintage textile and leather bags from their studio workshop in West Sussex. These beautiful bags make for stylish gifts all year round, Bessie Tote for the beach, Clara Clutch for an evening out. For more information, visit [www.brontebags.co.uk](http://www.brontebags.co.uk) or email [rachel@brontebags.co.uk](mailto:rachel@brontebags.co.uk)

**2. VINTAGE WATCH MOVEMENT CUFFLINKS BY PRETTY ECCENTRIC.** Cufflinks reincarnated from 1920s-1950s vintage watch movements, set with their original ruby jewels, backed with vintage leather and presented in vintage inspired box, £49. Visit [www.prettyeccentric.co.uk](http://www.prettyeccentric.co.uk) or call **07870 607925**.

**3. D. R. HARRIS**'s Almond Oil Soap on a Rope is an easy way to add old-school luxury to one's ablutions. Fragranced with Rose Geranium, hints of Clove and Cinnamon and combined with the moisturising properties of Almond Oil, this is ideal for both men and women. £13.50 available from 35 Bury Street, SW1 and 52 Piccadilly, W1. Also [www.drharris.co.uk](http://www.drharris.co.uk) **020 7930 3915**.

**4. MERCI MAMAN.** offers a beautiful range of personalised gifts. Featured is their Personalised Eternity Trio Necklace (£99) that will be engraved by hand with the names, dates or message of your choice. Available either in Sterling Silver or Gold Plated. The dedicated team at Merci Maman will hand-craft your bracelet from start to finish within only a couple of days and they will gift wrap your treasure in their lovely box, sealed with a bow. For more information, visit [www.mercimamanboutique.com](http://www.mercimamanboutique.com) or call **020 7731 1377**.

**5. CURE AND SIMPLE** produce hand cured, air dried artisan bacon at their state of the art facilities in the Hertfordshire countryside. Using happy British pigs and an exciting range of recipes created for them by a Michelin rated chef it is then delivered through your door, first class post. This unique product is available by subscription and a gift service offered. Artisan Bacon, 200gms £5.95 by Cure & Simple for more info see [www.cureandsimple.com](http://www.cureandsimple.com), email [hello@cureandsimple.com](mailto:hello@cureandsimple.com) or call **01763 802000**

**6. HANDBAG2HANDBAG** is the award winning 11 pocket organiser designed for busy women particularly for travelling. With a pocket for your passport and boarding card, this is your perfect companion. Each pocket is actually measured to take all your essentials so you can find everything in any bag, plus change bags in an instant. Also makes a great gift! Visit [www.handbag2handbag.com](http://www.handbag2handbag.com) or call **01344 291120**.

**7. DU MAURIER WATCHES.** Diamonds, rose gold and mother of pearl take centre stage on this stunning, ladies watch. Designed by none other than Ned du Maurier Browning, Daphne du Maurier's grandson, this fabulous, swiss-made, limited edition timepiece will add elegance and a bit of sparkle to every occasion. Rebecca ladies watch £485. See the full collection at [www.dumaurierwatches.com](http://www.dumaurierwatches.com) or call **0845 519 3074**.

**8. SUITCASE GLORY.** Throw out your black or blue suitcase and put some personality in your luxury luggage with one of the high-quality cases from Suitcase Glory. Super-tough and lightweight, each case comes with a built-in TSA-approved lock, four spinner wheels and a 12-month guarantee. Visit [www.suitcaseglory.co.uk](http://www.suitcaseglory.co.uk) or email [laura@suitcaseglory.co.uk](mailto:laura@suitcaseglory.co.uk)

**9. SORBET**'s beautiful Hammam towels are just so versatile! They make the perfect holiday towel – lightweight, quick drying and they double up as a sarong! Also ideal for sailing, festivals, the gym, and swimming. At home they are lovely in the bathroom and as guest towels, throws and table cloths. 100% cotton and available in 25 different mouth-watering colours. A unique gift – choose family and friends a towel in their favourite colour! Call **020 7627 8942** or visit the online shop [www.sorbetltd.co.uk](http://www.sorbetltd.co.uk) to find out more.

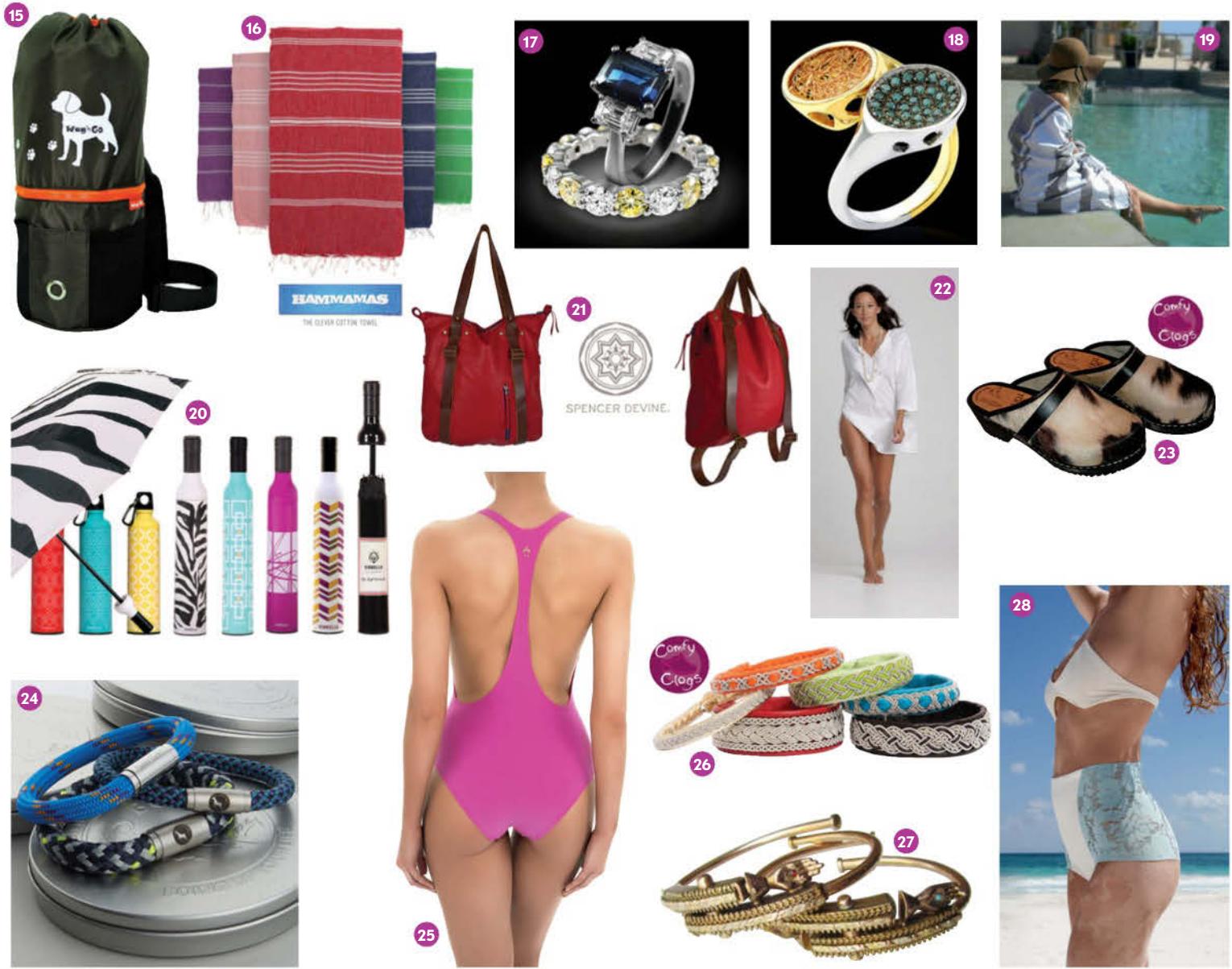
**10. indieSWIM.** An exquisite line of *Caribbean Cut™* swimwear made with love in Miami by founders Zoe & Rosanna. Each piece in the mix and match indieSWIM line is designed to reflect every girl's need for versatility. Inspired by various cultures and the beauty found in nature and art, indieSWIM pieces are intended to be worn with life! Explore the collection at [www.indieswim.com](http://www.indieswim.com)

**11. REVAMP** specialises in fine reproduction vintage clothing for men and women focusing on 1910-1957 seen on both the big and small screen. Picture yourself in reVamp's "Megan" 1950s bathing suit. With its detachable skirt, it will take you from beach to brunch. Visit [www.revampvintage.com](http://www.revampvintage.com) or email them at [info@revampvintage.com](mailto:info@revampvintage.com)

**12. CLARENDELLE,** inspired by Haut-Brion, is the guarantee of unique expertise in winemaking and blending. This family of great traditional wines from Bordeaux, made by oenologists from Domaine Clarence Dillon, shares a unique style, balance, elegance and complexity. Aged in cellars and sold only when they fully express their qualities and can be immediately enjoyed, the wines nevertheless display good cellaring potential. Available at Harrods, RRP £19.95. Visit [www.clarendelle.com](http://www.clarendelle.com)

**13. STRAX.** Free yourself from wires with the Xqisit BH100 Stereo Bluetooth headphones! Not only do they look great, but they deliver high-quality audio to ensure you hear every detail. There's even a built-in hands-free microphone to take calls as well as a multi-function wheel for track selection, volume control and answering calls. Featuring an adjustable headband, soft ear-cups and with up to 8 hours of playback time, you can enjoy your favourite tracks, movie/gaming audio and conversations in wireless freedom, style and comfort! Available at [Tesco.co.uk](http://Tesco.co.uk) or call **01923 852923**.

**14. PULLMAN EDITIONS** designs, commissions and publishes striking original posters which capture the enduring appeal of Art Deco. Their newly-commissioned posters feature glamorous winter sports and summer resorts around the world, as well as the world's greatest historic automobiles. All £395 each. Call **020 7730 0547** or view and buy online at [www.pullmaneditions.com](http://www.pullmaneditions.com)

*Luxury Gift Guide... continued*

**15.** Let your dog arrive in style with the **WAG N GO** travel kit. Including a luxury sleeping blanket, travel bowl and two large fresh seal containers. Elegantly packed, it will not only keep your dog content while you travel in style but it's a paw bag must have! Visit [www.wagnago.com](http://www.wagnago.com) or email [info@wagnago.com](mailto:info@wagnago.com)

**16.** **HAMMAMAS** are a "Clever Cotton Towel" and possibly the most useful, stylish and versatile gift you'll find this Christmas! They're super absorbent, easy to pack, quick drying and come in their own wet bag so make perfect swim towels, gym towels, sarongs and bath wraps. Simply put, they're travel and holiday essentials. Prices range from £25-£35. Visit [www.hammamas.com](http://www.hammamas.com) or call 01580 714714 For more information visit [www.thehammamfactory.com](http://www.thehammamfactory.com) or email [info@thehammamfactory.com](mailto:info@thehammamfactory.com).

**17.** **SIMON WRIGHT** offers a complete bespoke service, including a sit down design session and personally making your jewellery using the finest diamonds and gemstones. His latest offering is Perfect Proposal — propose with a diamond and a personalised invitation to design the perfect engagement ring together. For more information, visit [sw-jewellery.com/perfect-proposal](http://sw-jewellery.com/perfect-proposal) or call 020 7490 0665.

**18.** His passion for creating artistic jewellery perfected over the years resulted in **ANASTAZIO JEWELLERY** – a brand that creates extraordinary masterpieces inspired by ancient cultures, nature and love for feminine sexuality. Website [www.anastazio-jewellery.com](http://www.anastazio-jewellery.com) or email [info@anastazio-jewellery.com](mailto:info@anastazio-jewellery.com)

**19.** **HAMMAM** sheets are the chic alternative to a towel. The 100% cotton sheets come in a vast range of colours & designs; the perfect accessory for the beach | yoga | sailing | holidays | gym | festivals | home. Visit [www.thehammamfactory.com](http://www.thehammamfactory.com)

**20.** **VINRELLA**. Protect yourself from getting wet with an umbrella that comes in a wine bottle. Vinrella offers sleek and modern designs coupled with high quality construction. A Great New Gift Idea. Store your wet umbrella in the bottle and forget about drips and drops. You and all your belongings stay dry! Carry on your wrist, or place the bottle in your purse, briefcase or backpack. For more information visit [www.vinrella.com](http://www.vinrella.com) or email [info@vinrella.com](mailto:info@vinrella.com)

**21.** Brooklyn based **SPENCER DEVINE** specialises in versatile leather hand and travel bags, all locally hand constructed in small batches. Each style is thoughtfully designed to be able to transition between backpack, tote, and handheld briefcase with just a few pulls of the straps. Visit [www.spencerdevine.com](http://www.spencerdevine.com) or email [hello@spencerdevine.com](mailto:hello@spencerdevine.com)

**22.** **BEACHCOVER** create exquisite hand-embroidered beach kafans for style conscious women and children. Available in sizes 6-22 and children's age 2-12. Looking for something a little different for your next holiday? Visit their website [www.beachcover.com](http://www.beachcover.com) or call 01189 404120 for more information.

**23.** **COMFY CLOGS**, are handmade in Sweden and available in a range of the latest fun and funky styles and colours. Sizes for women and children. Perfect and practical for pregnant women and useful in the house and garden! Real skin Clogs available in a variety of styles. Call Cecilia on 07815 750340 or 020 8780 9767 for a brochure. Visit them at [www.comfyclogs.net](http://www.comfyclogs.net)

**24.** **HURLEYBURLEY** is the first choice for gorgeous and stylish personalised jewellery for Men, Women and Children. These stylish super tough Boing Bands are designed and made in Britain using the finest authentic components possible. They can personalise all their pieces and dispatch is within 24 hours making them the perfect choice for excellent quality personalised gifts. Go to [www.hurleyburley.com](http://www.hurleyburley.com) or email [info@hurleyburley.com](mailto:info@hurleyburley.com) for your Christmas shopping and use their discount code TRAV1 for a very useful 10% discount!

**25.** **BABAJAAN**. Their Ella swimsuit has a deep scoop neck and a racer back, and is cleverly cut to expose the sides of the body, ensuring an all-over tan. Its soft water-repellent Aquatech fabric is breathable, fast-drying, light-weight and offers UV protection. £98 Visit [www.babajaancollection.com](http://www.babajaancollection.com) or call 0207 148 1050.

**26.** **COMFY CLOGS**. Swedish samibracelets have finally arrived in London! The incredibly popular bracelets you can see on many stars today, are made of reindeer leather with silver and pewter thread with an antler button. Sizes for children, women and men. Visit [www.comfyclogs.net](http://www.comfyclogs.net) or call Cecilia on 07815 750340 or 020 8780 9767 to find out more.

**27.** Antique Victorian Hand Bracelet Pair from **LUXXOR VINTAGE**; an online vintage jewellery boutique specialising in Victorian, Art Deco and Mid Century jewellery. The continuously rotating collection features authentic antique pieces collected from around the globe. Visit [www.LUXXORvintage.com](http://www.LUXXORvintage.com) or email [info@LUXXORvintage.com](mailto:info@LUXXORvintage.com) for available items.

**28.** New York brand **BRIDGE SWIMWEAR** debuts their 13 piece swimwear and 12 piece coverup collection offering textured, luxurious fabrics and fresh silhouettes. With the philosophy of connectivity behind the line, the collection works together as a whole. All pieces complementing each other, synchronising together like an effortlessly chic puzzle. It is an alluring and timeless collection made in New York City. Visit [www.bridgeswimwear.com](http://www.bridgeswimwear.com) email [info@bridgeswimwear.com](mailto:info@bridgeswimwear.com) or see @bridgeswimwear



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**29.** Whether you are at the beach, swimming pool, sports club or on a boat, make sure you take one of these beautifully striped and stylish **OTTOMANIA** hammam towels with you. Large yet lightweight, they dry quickly and are easy to fold, making them perfect to pack in any bag or suitcase. Plus, they are very suitable for daily use in your bathroom at home. The perfect gift. For more information, see [www.ottomania.nl](http://www.ottomania.nl)

**30. SWAMI'S SURF COMPANY.** Named after the infamous right hander in California and famed for their elaborate bespoke surfboards. They've taken their signature prints and made a series of over sized scarves that double up as sarongs. Surf inspired threads that continue to evolve the label beyond boards – let's get wrapped! £15. Visit [www.swamis.com](http://www.swamis.com) or call +44 (0)20 7723 7671

**31. AUGUSTINE JEWELS** present the "Limited Edition Christmas Cuff" (£695), the perfect present for Christmas. It comes in 18ct yellow gold, rose gold, or silver. Handmade in London using garnets, citrine, tourmaline and sapphires, the wearer will be the talk of the town. To find out more, visit [www.augustinejewels.com](http://www.augustinejewels.com) or call 020 7603 1084. A Christmas discount of 15% is available by entering 'LUX' at checkout before 20th December 2014.

**32. RONIROSE.** The Ronirose Pearl is of AAA-quality and comes from the South Seas' finest collection, undoubtedly the most valuable cultured pearls in the world today. Set in 18k fine gold, their high lustre and slight natural blemishes make every pearl unique. All jewellery is fully handcrafted. Visit [www.ronirose.com](http://www.ronirose.com) or call +39 331 4988712 for more information.

**33. BLUE VELVET** is the home of contemporary and classic footwear direct from the heart of Europe. Always one step ahead, they have established themselves on their quality and first-rate service. Visit them at 174 Kings Road, SW3 4UP, call 020 7376 7442 or buy online at [www.bluevelvethoes.com](http://www.bluevelvethoes.com)

**34. LATHAM & NEVE** – known for their stunning contemporary hand-made British jewellery since 1997. Featured is the unique Ripple Bangle in beaten silver and 18ct gold, £205. Ballroom bangles, everyday earrings, ravishing rings and much much more... Buy online/stockists/brochure, visit [www.lathamandneve.co.uk](http://www.lathamandneve.co.uk) or call 01580 753399.

**35. CARPET BAGS.** A long established cottage industry based in East Anglia with dedicated crafts people who have set out to provide the finest quality and widest range of Carpet Bags available today. Strong, lightweight, hardwearing bags, made from real, traditionally patterned carpet, make wonderful gifts as well as good travelling companions! Visit [www.carpetbags.co.uk](http://www.carpetbags.co.uk)

**36. FRENCH VELVET. TRAVELLING CASHMERE WRAP!** Made in England from 100% cashmere. The Ideal Travelling Companion! Seriously stylish, yet perfectly practical. Folds into a square, light as air. Available in a range of stunning colours at £200. Visit [www.frenchvelvet.co.uk](http://www.frenchvelvet.co.uk) or call 01325 460669 to order Enter code 'traveller15' for a 10% discount off of all products (expires 1/1/15).

**37.** Choose a knitted silk nightie or a satin silk nightgown from **CIANNA SILK**. Silk is so light, making it great for travel. An essential wardrobe must-have for every modern businesswoman, or perfect for holidays, so luxurious and yet practical for travel. The perfect gift. Visit [www.ciannasilk.com](http://www.ciannasilk.com)

**38. OTTOLINE** silk twill and cashmere scarves are hand embroidered with delicate gold chain trimming all four edges for weight and sparkle. Prints vary from classic monochrome to an explosion of vibrant colours. Shop online or visit their Notting Hill store. Visit [ottolinelondon.com](http://ottolinelondon.com)

**39. HAYLEY MENZIES** signature fur trim shawls are a sure fire way to stay toasty this season. With a wide selection of designs and colours they have you stylishly wrapped for all occasions this season! For an exclusive introductory 10% off, use code: TRAVELLER at checkout. Shop online or visit their Notting Hill store. Visit [hayleymenzies.com](http://hayleymenzies.com) or call 02089695300

**40. MANN + MOON:** quintessentially British, distinctive, stylish, functional accessories for discerning dogs and their owners. A bespoke service, handmade from Harris Tweed and leather. Find that something special from their collection of unique dog walker's bags, collars, leads, toys, throws and more. To find out more, visit [www.mannandmoon.com](http://www.mannandmoon.com) or call 07941 684724.

**41. J'ADORE STYLE** a UK Boutique, provides on-trend and luxury fashion for men and women worldwide. They focus themselves on providing a first class and reliable service. Their luxe collection starts from £30. To view their entire collection, visit [jadore-style.co.uk](http://jadore-style.co.uk) or call 01403 814 978

**42.** Feed your skin and pamper yourself with luxurious skincare from **CREAM PEACH**. Kind and gentle yet intensely moisturising, a timeless investment for your skin. Enjoy the benefits of beautiful skin everyday Visit: [www.creampeach.co.uk](http://www.creampeach.co.uk)



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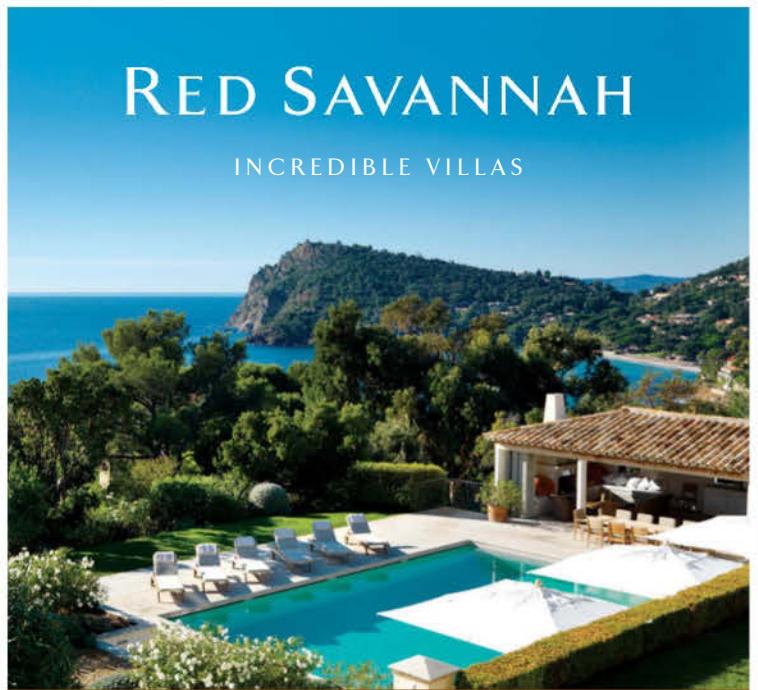
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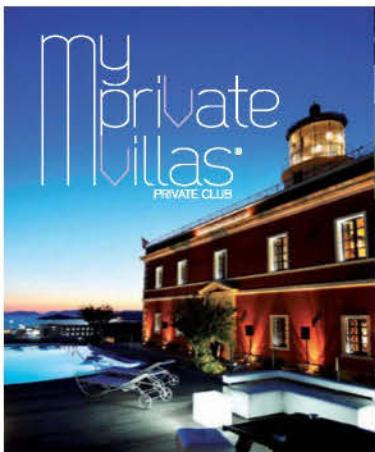
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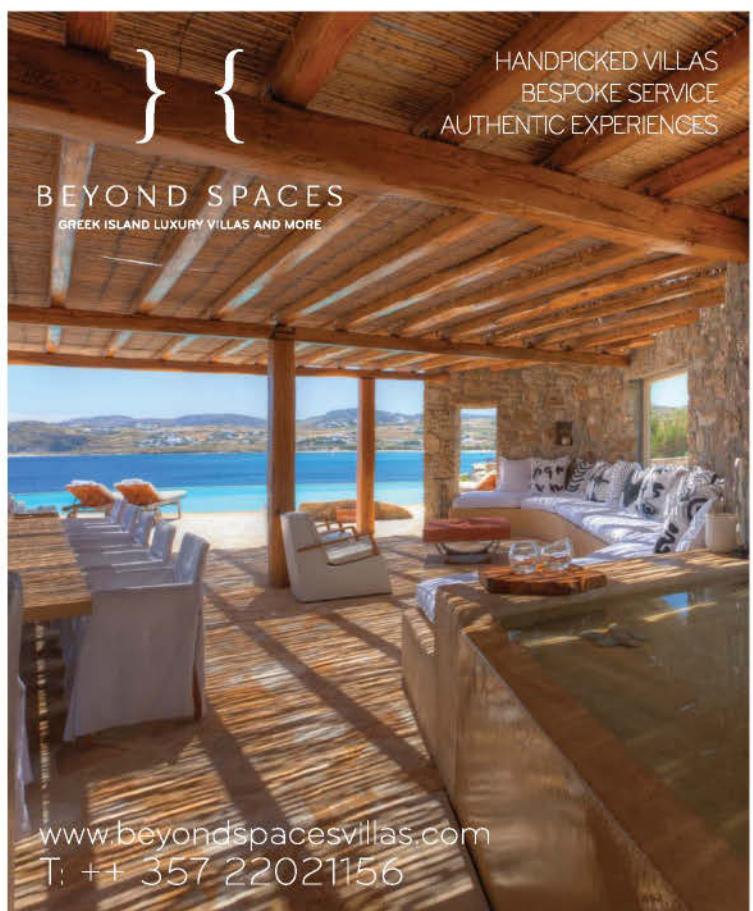
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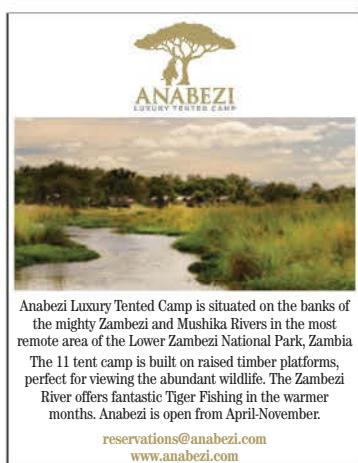
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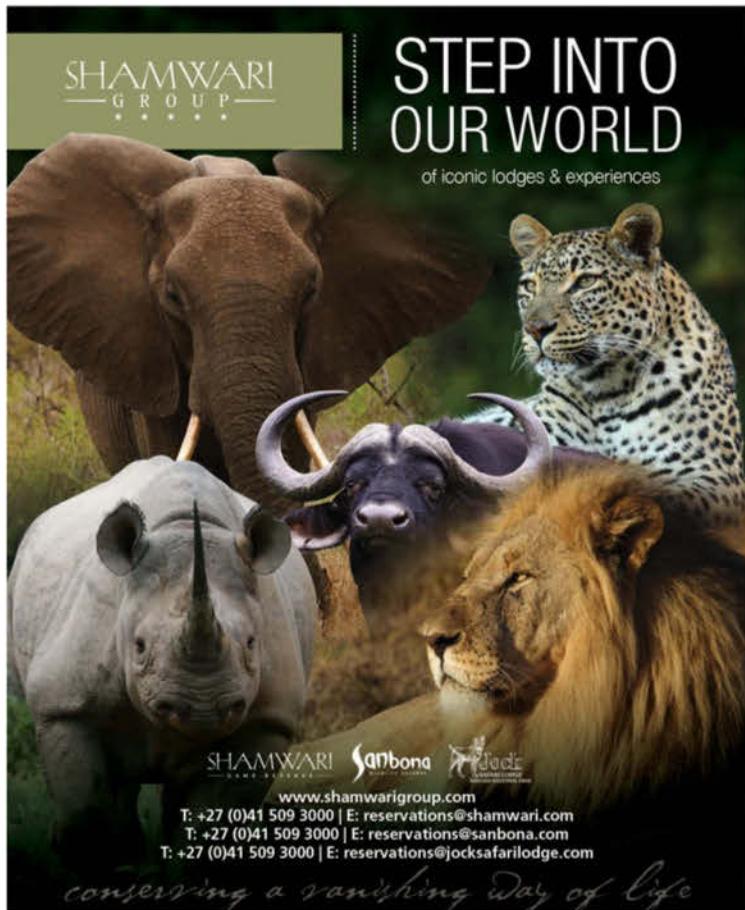
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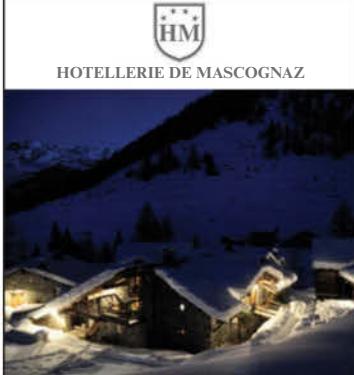
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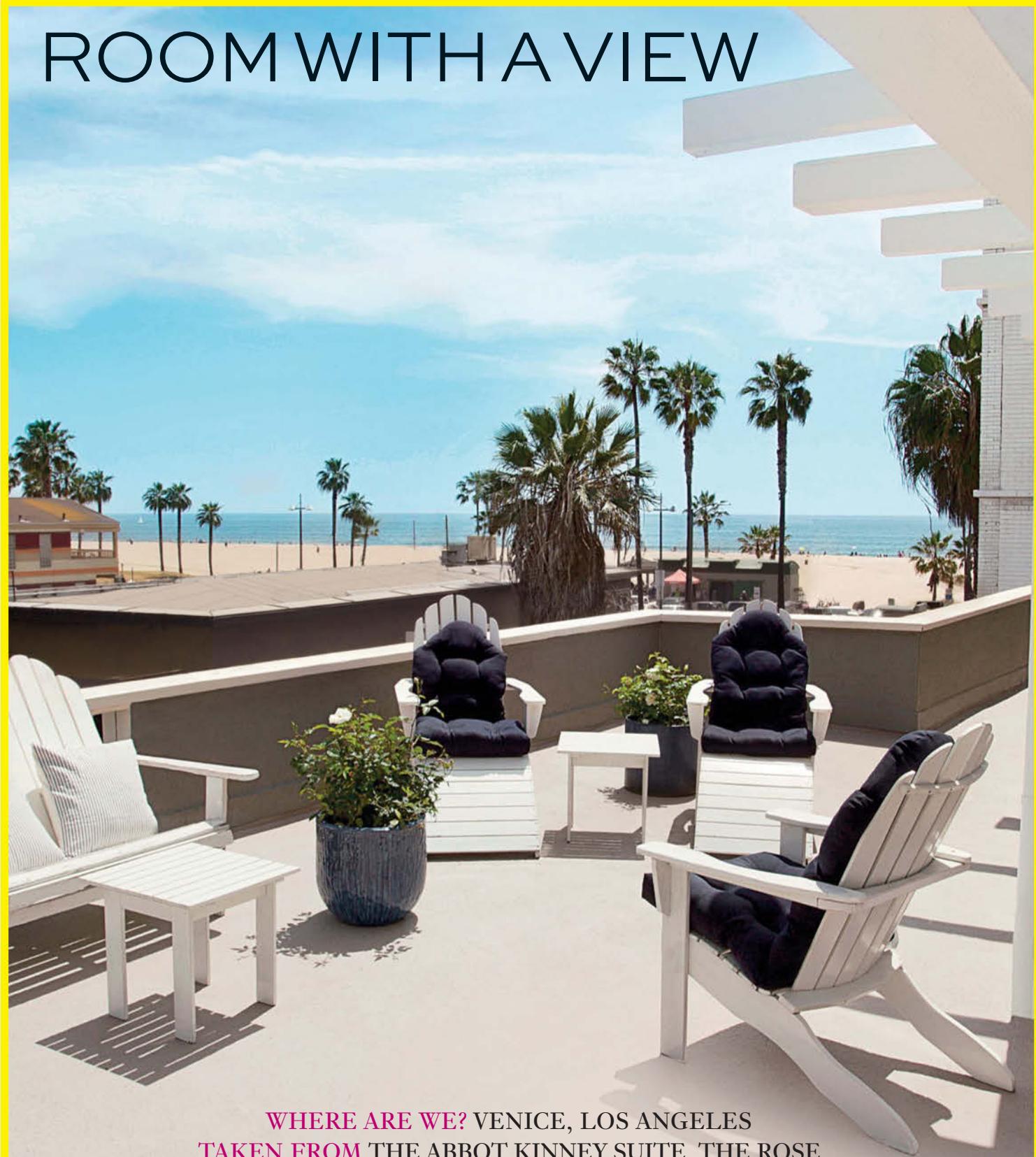
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# ROOM WITH A VIEW



WHERE ARE WE? VENICE, LOS ANGELES

TAKEN FROM THE ABBOT KINNEY SUITE, THE ROSE

**WHY WE LOVE IT** If HBO shot a season of *Girls* out west, the Rose would make an excellent location. Like Lena Dunham, creator and star of the show, it's a fearlessly original upstart, all the more charming for being a little out of shape. This isn't a good place to head for luxury or quiet – something the hotel's welcome letter frankly admits, appropriating Andy Warhol's advice to point out your faults in advance to new friends. The Rose's co-owner, fashion photographer Glen Luchford, describes it as a base for surfers, due to the proximity of the beach. The surf report is listed daily on a blackboard in the lobby. Going by its interiors, however, this is a place for artists. There's a kind of erotic grittiness here. The enormous Simpson Suite is elegantly appointed with Turkish dressing gowns and a 1978 print by Dick Jewell, in which he juxtaposes *Cosmo* covers with awkward baby photos. But the walls are as thin as a waif, and the dining table has as many punctures on its surface as a Seventies rock star. It's not the usual hotel experience, and for that the Rose is to be admired or avoided, depending on your tastes. Are you inspired or unnerved by the view from your balcony? Rembrandt clouds, palm trees swaying, ocean waves dancing... and tramps rootling through the trash, working in tandem, like an artist's community. Check in here when you're ready to be for real with each other, to kiss passionately beneath a beautiful sunset – orange and pink, punk as hell. EMMA FORREST +1 310 450 3474; [www.therosehotelvenice.com](http://www.therosehotelvenice.com). Doubles from about £105

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